

POEMS

BY

SAMUEL ROGERS.



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PL

THE
PLEASURES OF MEMORY.

IN TWO PARTS.

. Hoc est
Vivere his, vitâ posse priore frui. MART.

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OH could my Mind, unfolded in my page,
 Enlighten climes and mould a future age ;
 There as it glow'd, with noblest frenzy fraught,
 Dispense the treasures of exalted thought ;
 To Virtue wake the pulses of the heart,
 And bid the tear of emulation start !
 Oh could it still, thro' each succeeding year,
 My life, my manners, and my name endear ;
 And, when the poet sleeps in silent dust,
 Still hold communion with the wise and just !—
 Yet should this Verse, my leisure's best resource,
 When thro' the world it steals its secret course,

Revive but once a generous wish suppress,
Chase but a sigh, or charm a care to rest ;
In one good deed a fleeting hour employ,
Or flush one faded cheek with honest joy ;
Blest were my lines, tho' limited their sphere,
Tho' short their date, as his who trac'd them here.



THE
PLEASURES OF MEMORY.

PART I.

Dolce sentier,
Colle, che mi piacesti,
Ov' ancor per usanza Amor mi mena;
Ben riconosco in voi l' usate forme,
Non, lasso, in me.

PETRARCH.



ANALYSIS

OF THE

FIRST PART.

THE Poem begins with the description of an obscure village, and of the pleasing melancholy which it excites on being revisited after a long absence. This mixed sensation is an effect of the Memory. From an effect we naturally ascend to the cause; and the subject proposed is then unfolded with an investigation of the nature and leading principles of this faculty.

It is evident that our ideas flow in continual succession, and introduce each other with a certain degree of regularity.

They are sometimes excited by sensible objects, and sometimes by an internal operation of the mind. Of the former species is most probably the memory of brutes; and its many sources of pleasure to them, as well as to us, are considered in the first part. The latter is the most perfect degree of memory, and forms the subject of the second.

When ideas have any relation whatever, they are attractive of each other in the mind; and the perception of any object naturally leads to the idea of another, which was connected with it either in time or place, or

which can be compared or contrasted with it. Hence arises our attachment to inanimate objects; hence also, in some degree, the love of our country, and the emotion with which we contemplate the celebrated scenes of antiquity. Hence a picture directs our thoughts to the original: and, as cold and darkness suggest forcibly the ideas of heat and light, he, who feels the infirmities of age, dwells most on whatever reminds him of the vigour and vivacity of his youth.

The associating principle, as here employed, is no less conducive to virtue than to happiness; and, as such, it frequently discovers itself in the most tumultuous scenes of life. It addresses our finer feelings, and gives

exercise to every mild and generous propensity.

Not confined to man, it extends through all animated nature; and its effects are peculiarly striking in the domestic tribes.



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TWILIGHT's soft dew's steal o'er the village-green,
With magic tints to harmonize the scene.
Still'd is the hum that thro' the hamlet broke,
When round the ruins of their antient oak
The peasants flock'd to hear the minstrel play,
And games and carols clos'd the busy day.

Her wheel at rest, the matron thrills no more
 With treasur'd tales, and legendary lore.

All, all are fled ; nor mirth nor music flows

To chase the dreams of innocent repose.

All, all are fled ; yet still I linger here !

What secret charms this silent spot endear ?

Mark yon old Mansion frowning thro' the trees,

Whose hollow turret wooes the whistling breeze.

That casement, arch'd with ivy's brownest shade,

First to these eyes the light of heav'n convey'd.

The mouldering gateway strews the grass-grown court,

Once the calm scene of many a simple sport ;

When nature pleas'd, for life itself was new,

And the heart promis'd what the fancy drew.

See, thro' the fractur'd pediment reveal'd,

Where moss inlays the rudely-sculptur'd shield,

The martin's old, hereditary nest.

Long may the ruin spare its hallow'd guest !

As jars the hinge, what sullen echoes call !

Oh haste, unfold the hospitable hall !

That hall, where once, in antiquated state,

The chair of justice held the grave debate.

Now stain'd with dews, with cobwebs darkly hung,

Oft has its roof with peals of rapture rung ;

When round yon ample board, in due degree,

We sweeten'd every meal with social glee.

The heart's light laugh pursued the circling jest ;

And all was sunshine in each little breast.

'Twas here we chas'd the slipper by the sound ;

And turn'd the blindfold hero round and round.

'Twas here, at eve, we form'd our fairy ring ;

And Fancy flutter'd on her wildest wing.

Giants and genii chain'd each wondering ear ;
 And orphan-sorrows drew the ready tear.
 Oft with the babes we wander'd in the wood,
 Or view'd the forest-feats of Robin Hood :
 Oft, fancy-led, at midnight's fearful hour,
 With startling step we scal'd the lonely tower ;
 O'er infant innocence to hang and weep,
 Murder'd by ruffian hands, when smiling in its sleep.

Ye Household Deities ! whose guardian eye
 Mark'd each pure thought, ere register'd on high ;
 Still, still ye walk the consecrated ground,
 And breathe the soul of Inspiration round.

As o'er the dusky furniture I bend,
 Each chair awakes the feelings of a friend.
 The storied arras, source of fond delight,
 With old achievement charms the wilder'd sight ;

And still, with Heraldry's rich hues imprest,
 On the dim window glows the pictur'd crest.
 The screen unfolds its many-colour'd chart.
 The clock still points its moral to the heart.
 That faithful monitor 'twas heav'n to hear !
 When soft it spoke a promis'd pleasure near :
 And has its sober hand, its simple chime,
 Forgot to trace the feather'd feet of Time ?
 That massive beam, with curious carvings wrought,
 Whence the caged linnet sooth'd my pensive thought ;
 Those muskets, cas'd with venerable rust ;
 Those once-lov'd forms, still breathing thro' their dust,
 Still from the frame, in mould gigantic cast,
 Starting to life—all whisper of the past !
 As thro' the garden's desert paths I rove,
 What fond illusions swarm in every grove !

How oft, when purple evening ting'd the west,
 We watch'd the emmet to her grainy nest ;
 Welcom'd the wild-bee home on weary wing,
 Laden with sweets, the choicest of the spring !
 How oft inscrib'd, with Friendship's votive rhyme,
 The bark now silver'd by the touch of Time ;
 Soar'd in the swing, half pleas'd and half afraid,
 Thro' sister elms that wav'd their summer-shade ;
 Or strew'd with crumbs yon root-inwoven seat,
 To lure the redbreast from his lone retreat !

Childhood's lov'd group revisits every scene ;
 The tangled wood-walk, and the tufted green !
 Indulgent MEMORY wakes, and lo, they live !
 Cloth'd with far softer hues than Light can give.
 Thou first, best friend that Heav'n assigns below,
 To sooth and sweeten all the cares we know ;

Whose glad suggestions still each vain alarm,
 When nature fades, and life forgets to charm;
 Thee would the Muse invoke!—to thee belong
 The sage's precept, and the poet's song.
 What soften'd views thy magic glass reveals,
 When o'er the landscape Time's meek twilight steals!
 As when in ocean sinks the orb of day,
 Long on the wave reflected lustres play;
 Thy temper'd gleams of happiness resign'd
 Glance on the darken'd mirror of the mind.

The School's lone porch, with reverend mosses gray,
 Just tells the pensive pilgrim where it lay.
 Mute is the bell that rung at peep of dawn,
 Quickening my truant-feet across the lawn:
 Unheard the shout that rent the noontide air,
 When the slow dial gave a pause to care.

Up springs, at every step, to claim a tear,^a
 Some little friendship form'd and cherish'd here !
 And not the lightest leaf, but trembling teems
 With golden visions, and romantic dreams !

Down by yon hazel copse, at evening, blaz'd
 The Gipsy's faggot—there we stood and gaz'd ;
 Gaz'd on her sun-burnt face with silent awe,
 Her tatter'd mantle, and her hood of straw ;
 Her moving lips, her caldron brimming o'er ;
 The drowsy brood that on her back she bore,
 Imps, in the barn with mousing owlet bred,
 From rifled roost at nightly revel fed ;
 Whose dark eyes flash'd thro' locks of blackest shade,
 When in the breeze the distant watch-dog bay'd :—
 And heroes fled the Sibyl's mutter'd call,
 Whose elfin prowess scal'd the orchard-wall.

As o'er my palm the silver piece she drew,
 And trac'd the line of life with searching view,
 How throb'd my fluttering pulse with hopes and fears,
 To learn the colour of my future years!

Ah, then, what honest triumph flush'd my breast!
 This truth once known—To bless is to be blest!
 We led the bending beggar on his way,
 (Bare were his feet, his tresses silver-gray)
 Sooth'd the keen pangs his aged spirit felt,
 And on his tale with mute attention dwelt.
 As in his scrip we dropt our little store,
 And wept to think that little was no more,
 He breath'd his prayer, "Long may such goodness live!"
 'Twas all he gave, 'twas all he had to give.
 Angels, when Mercy's mandate wing'd their flight,
 Had stopt to catch new rapture from the sight.

But hark ! thro' those old firs, with sullen swell
 The church-clock strikes ! ye tender scenes, farewell !
 It calls me hence, beneath their shade, to trace
 The few fond lines that Time may soon efface.

On yon gray stone, that fronts the chancel-door,
 Worn smooth by busy feet now seen no more,
 Each eve we shot the marble thro' the ring,
 When the heart danc'd, and life was in its spring ;
 Alas ! unconscious of the kindred earth,
 That faintly echoed to the voice of mirth.

The glow-worm loves her emerald light to shed,
 Where now the sexton rests his hoary head.
 Oft, as he turn'd the greensward with his spade,
 He lectur'd every youth that round him play'd ;
 And, calmly pointing where his fathers lay,
 Rous'd him to rival each, the hero of his day.

Hush, ye fond flutterings, hush ! while here alone

I search the records of each mouldering stone.

Guides of my life ! Instructors of my youth !

Who first unveil'd the hallow'd form of Truth ;

Whose every word enlighten'd and endear'd ;

In age belov'd, in poverty rever'd ;

In Friendship's silent register ye live,

Nor ask the vain memorial Art can give.

—But when the sons of peace and pleasure sleep,

When only Sorrow wakes, and wakes to weep,

What spells entrance my visionary mind,

With sighs so sweet, with transports so refin'd ?

Ethereal Power ! whose smile, at noon of night,

Recalls the far-fled spirit of delight ;

Instils that musing, melancholy mood,

Which charms the wise, and elevates the good ;

Blest MEMORY, hail ! Oh grant the grateful Muse,
 Her pencil dipt in Nature's living hues,
 To pass the clouds that round thy empire roll,
 And trace its airy precincts in the soul.

Lull'd in the countless chambers of the brain,
 Our thoughts are link'd by many a hidden chain.
 Awake but one, and lo, what myriads rise !
 Each stamps its image as the other flies !
 Each, as the various avenues of sense
 Delight or sorrow to the soul dispense,
 Brightens or fades ; yet all, with magic art,
 Controul the latent fibres of the heart.
 As studious PROSPERO's mysterious spell
 Conven'd the subject-spirits to his cell ;
 Each, at thy call, advances or retires,
 As judgment dictates, or the scene inspires.

Each thrills the seat of sense, that sacred source,
 Whence the fine nerves direct their mazy course,
 And thro' the frame invisibly convey
 The subtle, quick vibrations as they play.
 Survey the globe, each ruder realm explore;
 From Reason's faintest ray to NEWTON soar.
 What different spheres to human bliss assign'd!
 What slow gradations in the scale of mind!
 Yet mark in each these mystic wonders wrought;
 Oh mark the sleepless energies of thought!
 The adventurous boy, that asks his little share,
 And hies from home, with many a gossip's prayer,
 Turns on the neighbouring hill, once more to see
 The dear abode of peace and privacy;
 And as he turns, the thatch among the trees,
 The smoke's blue wreaths ascending with the breeze,

The village-common spotted white with sheep,
 The church-yard yews round which his fathers sleep;^c
 All rouse Reflection's sadly-pleasing train,
 And oft he looks and weeps, and looks again.

So, when the mild TUPIA dar'd explore
 Arts yet untaught, and worlds unknown before,
 And, with the sons of Science, woo'd the gale,
 That, rising, swell'd their strange expanse of sail;
 So, when he breath'd his firm yet fond adieu,^d
 Borne from his leafy hut, his carv'd canoe,
 And all his soul best lov'd—such tears he shed,
 While each soft scene of summer-beauty fled:
 Long o'er the wave a wistful look he cast,
 Long watch'd the streaming signal from the mast;
 Till twilight's dewy tints deceiv'd his eye,
 And fairy forests fring'd the evening sky.

So Scotia's Queen, as slowly dawn'd the day,^e
 Rose on her couch, and gaz'd her soul away.
 Her eyes had bless'd the beacon's glimmering height,
 That faintly tipt the feathery surge with light;
 But now the morn with orient hues pourtray'd
 Each castled cliff, and brown monastic shade:
 All touch'd the talisman's resistless spring,
 And lo, what busy tribes were instant on the wing!
 Thus kindred objects kindred thoughts inspire,^f
 As summer-clouds flash forth electric fire.
 And hence this spot gives back the joys of youth,
 Warm as the life, and with the mirror's truth.
 Hence home-felt pleasure prompts the Patriot's sigh;^g
 This makes him wish to live, and dare to die.
 For this young FOSCARI, whose hapless fate^h
 Venice should blush to hear the Muse relate,

When exile wore his blooming years away,
 To sorrow's long soliloquies a prey,
 When reason, justice, vainly urg'd his cause,
 For this he rous'd her sanguinary laws;
 Glad to return, tho' Hope could grant no more,
 And chains and torture hail'd him to the shore.

And hence the charm historic scenes impart:
 Hence Tiber awes, and Avon melts the heart.
 Aërial forms, in Tempe's classic vale,
 Glance thro' the gloom, and whisper in the gale;
 In wild Vaucluse with love and LAURA dwell,
 And watch and weep in ELOISA's cell.ⁱ
 'Twas ever thus. As now at VIRGIL's tomb,^k
 We bless the shade, and bid the verdure bloom:
 So TULLY paus'd, amid the wrecks of Time,^l
 On the rude stone to trace the truth sublime;

When at his feet, in honour'd dust disclos'd,
 The immortal Sage of Syracuse repos'd.
 And as his youth in sweet delusion hung,
 Where once a PLATO taught, a PINDAR sung;
 Who now but meets him musing, when he roves
 His ruin'd Tusculan's romantic groves?
 In Rome's great forum, who but hears him roll
 His moral thunders o'er the subject soul?
 And hence that calm delight the portrait gives:
 We gaze on every feature till it lives!
 Still the fond lover views the absent maid;
 And the lost friend still lingers in his shade!
 Say why the pensive widow loves to weep,^m
 When on her knee she rocks her babe to sleep:
 Tremblingly still, she lifts his veil to trace
 The father's features in his infant face.

The hoary grandsire smiles the hour away,
 Won by the charm of Innocence at play;
 He bends to meet each artless burst of joy,
 Forgets his age, and acts again the boy.

What tho' the iron school of War erase
 Each milder virtue, and each softer grace;
 What tho' the fiend's torpedo-touch arrest
 Each gentler, finer impulse of the breast;
 Still shall this active principle preside,
 And wake the tear to Pity's self denied.

The intrepid Swiss, that guards a foreign shore,
 Condemn'd to climb his mountain-cliffs no more,
 If chance he hears the song so sweetly wildⁿ
 Which on those cliffs his infant hours beguil'd,
 Melts at the long-lost scenes that round him rise,
 And sinks a martyr to repentant sighs.

Ask not if courts or camps dissolve the charm :

Say why VESPASIAN lov'd his Sabine farm ;^o

Why great NAVARRE, when France and freedom bled,^p
Sought the lone limits of a forest-shed.

When DIOCLETIAN's self-corrected mind ^q

The imperial fasces of a world resign'd,

Say why we trace the labours of his spade,

In calm Salona's philosophic shade.

Say, when contentious CHARLES renounc'd a throne,^r

To muse with monks unletter'd and unknown,

What from his soul the parting tribute drew ?

What claim'd the sorrows of a last adieu ?

The still retreats that sooth'd his tranquil breast,

Ere grandeur dazzled, and its cares oppress'd.

Undamp'd by time, the generous Instinct glows

Far as Angola's sands, as Zembla's snows ;

Glow in the tiger's den, the serpent's nest,
On every form of varied life imprest.

The social tribes its choicest influence hail :—
And, when the drum beats briskly in the gale,
The war-worn courser charges at the sound,
And with young vigour wheels the pasture round.

Of has the aged tenant of the vale
Lean'd on his staff to lengthen out the tale;
Of have his lips the grateful tribute breath'd,
From sire to son with pious zeal bequeath'd.
When o'er the blasted heath the day declin'd,
And on the scath'd oak warr'd the winter-wind;
When not a distant taper's twinkling ray
Gleam'd o'er the furze to light him on his way;
When not a sheep-bell sooth'd his listening ear,
And the big rain-drops told the tempest near;

Then did his horse the homeward track descry,
 The track that shunn'd his sad, inquiring eye;
 And win each wavering purpose to relent,
 With warmth so mild, so gently violent,
 That his charm'd hand the careless rein resign'd,
 And doubts and terrors vanish'd from his mind.

 Recall the traveller, whose alter'd form
 Has borne the buffet of the mountain-storm;
 And who will first his fond impatience meet?
 His faithful dog's already at his feet!
 Yes, tho' the porter spurn him from the door,
 Tho' all, that knew him, know his face no more,
 His faithful dog shall tell his joy to each,
 With that mute eloquence which passes speech.—
 And see, the master but returns to die!
 Yet who shall bid the watchful servant fly?

The blasts of heav'n, the drenching dews of earth,
 The wanton insults of unfeeling mirth,
 These, when to guard Misfortune's sacred grave,
 Will firm Fidelity exult to brave.

Led by what chart, transports the timid dove
 The wreaths of conquest, or the vows of love?
 Say, thro' the clouds what compass points her flight?
 Monarchs have gaz'd, and nations bless'd the sight.
 Pile rocks on rocks, bid woods and mountains rise,
 Eclipse her native shades, her native skies;—
 'Tis vain! thro' Ether's pathless wilds she goes,
 And lights at last where all her cares repose.

Sweet bird! thy truth shall Harlem's walls attest,^t
 And unborn ages consecrate thy nest.
 When, with the silent energy of grief,
 With looks that ask'd, yet dar'd not hope relief,

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Want, with her babes, round generous Valour clung,

To wring the slow surrender from his tongue,

'Twas thine to animate her closing eye;

Alas! 'twas thine perchance the first to die,

Crush'd by her meagre hand, when welcom'd from
the sky.

Hark! the bee winds her small but mellow horn,^u

Blithe to salute the sunny smile of morn.

O'er thymy downs she bends her busy course,

And many a stream allures her to its source.

'Tis noon, 'tis night. That eye so finely wrought,

Beyond the search of sense, the soar of thought,

Now vainly asks the scenes she left behind;

Its orb so full, its vision so confin'd!

Who guides the patient pilgrim to her cell?

Who bids her soul with conscious triumph swell?

With conscious truth retrace the mazy clue
Of varied scents, that charm'd her as she flew ?
Hail, **MEMORY**, hail! thy universal reign
Guards the least link of Being's glorious chain.



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THE
PLEASURES OF MEMORY.

PART II.

Delle cose custode, e dispensiera.

TASSO.



ANALYSIS

OF THE

SECOND PART.

THE Memory has hitherto acted only in subservience to the senses, and so far man is not eminently distinguished from other animals: but, with respect to man, she has a higher province; and is often busily employed, when excited by no external cause whatever. She preserves, for his use, the treasures of art and science, history and philosophy. She colours all the prospects of life: for 'we can only anticipate the

future, by concluding what is possible from what is past.' On her agency depends every effusion of the Fancy, whose boldest effort can only compound or transpose, augment or diminish the materials which she has collected and retained.

When the first emotions of despair have subsided, and sorrow has softened into melancholy, she amuses with a retrospect of innocent pleasures, and inspires that noble confidence which results from the consciousness of having acted well. When sleep has suspended the organs of sense from their office, she not only supplies the mind with images, but assists in their combination. And even in madness itself, when the soul is re-

signed over to the tyranny of a distempered imagination, she revives past perceptions, and awakens the train of thought which was formerly most familiar.

Nor are we pleased only with a review of the brighter passages of life. Events, the most distressing in their immediate consequences, are often cherished in remembrance with a degree of enthusiasm.

But the world and its occupations give a mechanical impulse to the passions, which is not very favourable to the indulgence of this feeling. It is in a calm and well-regulated mind that the Memory is most perfect; and solitude is her best sphere of action. With this sentiment is introduced a Tale, illustra-

tive of her influence in solitude, sickness, and sorrow. And the subject having now been considered, so far as it relates to man and the animal world, the Poem concludes with a conjecture, that superior beings are blest with a nobler exercise of this faculty.



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SWEET MEMORY, wafted by thy gentle gale,
Oft up the stream of Time I turn my sail,
To view the fairy-haunts of long-lost hours,
Blest with far greener shades, far fresher flowers.
Ages and climes remote to Thee impart
What charms in Genius, and refines in Art;
Thee, in whose hand the keys of Science dwell,
The pensive portress of her holy cell;

Whose constant vigils chase the chilling damp
Oblivion steals upon her vestal-lamp.

The friends of Reason, and the guides of Youth,
Whose language breath'd the eloquence of Truth ;
Whose life, beyond preceptive wisdom, taught
The great in conduct, and the pure in thought ;
These still exist, by Thee to Fame consign'd,
Still speak and act, the models of mankind.

From Thee sweet Hope her airy colouring draws ;
And Fancy's flights are subject to thy laws.
From Thee that bosom-spring of rapture flows,
Which only Virtue, tranquil Virtue, knows.

When Joy's bright sun has shed his evening ray,
And Hope's delusive meteors cease to play ;
When clouds on clouds the smiling prospect close,
Still thro' the gloom thy star serenely glows :

Like yon fa'r orb, she gilds the brow of night
 With the mild magic of reflected light.

The beauteous maid, that bids the world adieu,
 Oft of that world will snatch a fond review ;
 Oft at the shrine neglect her beads, to trace
 Some social scene, some dear, familiar face,
 Forgot, when first a father's stern controul
 Chas'd the gay visions of her opening soul :
 And ere, with iron tongue, the vesper-bell
 Bursts thro' the cypress-walk, the convent-cell,
 Oft will her warm and wayward heart revive,
 To love and joy still tremblingly alive ;
 The whisper'd vow, the chaste caress prolong,
 Weave the light dance and swell the choral song ;
 With rapt ear drink the enchanting serenade,
 And, as it melts along the moonlight-glade,

To each soft note return as soft a sigh,
And bless the youth that bids her slumbers fly.

But not till Time has calm'd the ruffled breast,
Are these fond dreams of happiness confest.
Not till the rushing winds forget to rave,
Is Heav'n's sweet smile reflected on the wave.

From Guinea's coast pursue the lessening sail,
And catch the sounds that sadden every gale.
Tell, if thou canst, the sum of sorrows there ;
Mark the fixt gaze, the wild and frenzied glare,
The racks of thought, and freezings of despair !
But pause not then—beyond the western wave,
Go, view the captive barter'd as a slave !
Crush'd till his high, heroic spirit bleeds,
And from his nerveless frame indignantly recedes.

Yet here, ev'n here, with pleasures long resign'd,
 Lo ! MEMORY bursts the twilight of the mind :
 Her dear delusions sooth his sinking soul,
 When the rude scourge presumes its base controul ;
 And o'er Futurity's blank page diffuse
 The full reflection of her vivid hues.
 'Tis but to die, and then, to weep no more,
 Then will he wake on Congo's distant shore ;
 Beneath his plantain's antient shade, renew
 The simple transports that with freedom flew ;
 Catch the cool breeze that musky Evening blows,
 And quaff the palm's rich nectar as it glows ;
 The oral tale of elder time rehearse,
 And chant the rude, traditionary verse ;
 With those, the lov'd companions of his youth,
 When life was luxury, and friendship truth.

Ah! why should Virtue dread the frowns of Fate?
 Hers what no wealth can win, no power create!
 A little world of clear and cloudless day,
 Nor wreck'd by storms, nor moulder'd by decay;
 A world, with MEMORY's ceaseless sun-shine blest,
 The home of Happiness, an honest breast.

But most we mark the wonders of her reign,
 When Sleep has lock'd the senses in her chain.
 When sober Judgment has his throne resign'd,
 She smiles away the chaos of the mind;
 And, as warm Fancy's bright Elysium glows,
 From Her each image springs, each colour flows.
 She is the sacred guest! the immortal friend!
 Oft seen o'er sleeping Innocence to bend,
 In that dead hour of night to Silence giv'n,
 Whispering seraphic visions of her heav'n.

When the blithe son of Savoy, journeying round
 With humble wares and pipe of merry sound,
 From his green vale and shelter'd cabin hies,
 And scales the Alps to visit foreign skies ;
 Tho' far below the forked lightnings play,
 And at his feet the thunder dies away,
 Oft, in the saddle rudely rock'd to sleep,
 While his mule browses on the dizzy steep,
 With MEMORY's aid, he sits at home, and sees
 His children sport beneath their native trees,
 And bends, to hear their cherub-voices call,
 O'er the loud fury of the torrent's fall.
 But can her smile with gloomy Madness dwell ?
 Day, can she chase the horrors of his cell ?
 Each fiery flight on Frenzy's wing restrain,
 And mould the coinage of the fever'd brain ?

Pass but that grate, which scarce a gleam supplies,
 There in the dust the wreck of Genius lies !
 He, whose arresting hand sublimely wrought
 Each bold conception in the sphere of thought ;
 And round, in colours of the rainbow, threw
 Forms ever fair, creations ever new !
 But, as he fondly snatch'd the wreath of Fame,
 The spectre Poverty unnerv'd his frame.
 Cold was her grasp, a withering scowl she wore ;
 And Hope's soft energies were felt no more.
 Yet still how sweet the soothings of his art ! *
 From the rude wall what bright ideas start !
 Ev'n now he claims the amaranthine wreath,
 With scenes that glow, with images that breathe !
 And whence these scenes, these images, declare :
 Whence but from Her who triumphs o'er despair ?

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Awake, arise ! with grateful fervor fraught,

Go, spring the mine of elevating thought.

He, who, thro' Nature's various walk, surveys

The good and fair her faultless line pourtrays ;

Whose mind, prophan'd by no unhallow'd guest,

Culls from the crowd the purest and the best ;

May range, at will, bright Fancy's golden clime,

Or, musing, mount where Science sits sublime,

Or wake the spirit of departed Time.

Who acts thus wisely, mark the moral muse,

A blooming Eden in his life reviews !

So rich the culture, tho' so small the space,

Its scanty limits he forgets to trace.

But the fond fool, when evening shades the sky,

Turns but to start, and gazes but to sigh ! y

The weary waste, that lengthen'd as he ran,
Fades to a blank, and dwindles to a span !

Ah ! who can tell the triumphs of the mind,
By truth illumin'd, and by taste refin'd ?
When Age has quench'd the eye and clos'd the ear,
Still nerv'd for action in her native sphere,
Oft will she rise—with searching glance pursue
Some long-lov'd image vanish'd from her view ;
Dart thro' the deep recesses of the past,
O'er dusky forms in chains of slumber cast ;
With giant-grasp fling back the folds of night,
And snatch the faithless fugitive to light.

So thro' the grove the impatient mother flies,
Each sunless glade, each secret pathway tries ;
Till the light leaves the truant boy disclose,
Long on the wood-moss stretch'd in sweet repose.

Nor yet to pleasing objects are confin'd

The silent feasts of the reflecting mind.

Danger and death a dread delight inspire ;

And the bald veteran glows with wonted fire,

When, richly bronz'd by many a summer-sun,

He counts his scars, and tells what deeds were done.

Go, with old Thames, view Chelsea's glorious pile ;

And ask the shatter'd hero, whence his smile ?

Go, view the splendid domes of Greenwich—Go,

And own what raptures from Reflection flow.

Hail, noblest structures imag'd in the wave !

A nation's grateful tribute to the brave.

Hail, blest retreats from war and shipwreck, hail !

That oft arrest the wondering stranger's sail.

Long have ye heard the narratives of age,

The battle's havoc, and the tempest's rage ;

Long have ye known Reflection's genial ray
Gild the calm close of Valour's various day.

Time's sombrous touches soon correct the piece,
Mellow each tint, and bid each discord cease :
A softer tone of light pervades the whole,
And steals a pensive languor o'er the soul.

Hast thou thro' Eden's wild-wood vales pursued ?
Each mountain-scene, majestically rude ;
To note the sweet simplicity of life,
Far from the din of Folly's idle strife :
Nor there awhile, with lifted eye, rever'd
That modest stone which pious PEMBROKE rear'd ;
Which still records, beyond the pencil's power,
The silent sorrows of a parting hour ;
Still to the musing pilgrim points the place,
Her sainted spirit most delights to trace ?

Thus, with the manly glow of honest pride, •
 O'er his dead son the gallant ORMOND sigh'd.
 Thus, thro' the gloom of SHENSTONE's fairy grove,
 MARIA's urn still breathes the voice of love.
 As the stern grandeur of a Gothic tower
 Awes us less deeply in its morning hour,
 Than when the shades of Time serenely fall
 On every broken arch and ivied wall ;
 The tender images we love to trace,
 Steal from each year a melancholy grace !
 And as the sparks of social love expand,
 As the heart opens in a foreign land ;
 And, with a brother's warmth, a brother's smile,
 The stranger greets each native of his isle ;
 So scenes of life, when present and confest,
 Stamp but their bolder features on the breast ;

Yet not an image, when remotely view'd,
However trivial, and however rude,
But wins the heart, and wakes the social sigh,
With every claim of close affinity !

But these pure joys the world can never know ;
In gentler climes their silver currents flow.
Oft at the silent, shadowy close of day,
When the hush'd grove has sung its parting lay ;
When pensive Twilight, in her dusky car,
Comes slowly on to meet the evening-star ;
Above, below, ærial murmurs swell,
From hanging wood, brown heath, and bushy dell !
A thousand nameless rills, that shun the light,
Stealing soft music on the ear of night.
So oft the finer movements of the soul,
That shun the sphere of Pleasure's gay controul,

In the still shades of calm Seclusion rise,
And breathe their sweet, seraphic harmonies !

Once, and domestic annals tell the time,
(Preserv'd in Cumbria's rude, romantic clime)

When Nature smil'd, and o'er the landscape threw
Her richest fragrance, and her brightest hue,

A blithe and blooming Forester explor'd
Those loftier scenes SALVATOR's soul ador'd;

The rocky pass half hung with shaggy wood,
And the cleft oak flung boldly o'er the flood;
Nor shunn'd the path, unknown to human tread,

That downward to the night of caverns led;
Some antient cataract's deserted bed.

High on exulting wing the heath-cock rose,^b
And blew his shrill blast o'er perennial snows;
Ere the rapt youth, recoiling from the roar,
Gaz'd on the tumbling tide of dread Lodoar;

And thro' the rifted cliffs, that scal'd the sky,
 Derwent's clear mirror charm'd his dazzled eye.^c
 Each osier isle, inverted on the wave,
 Thro' morn's gray mist its melting colours gave ;
 And, o'er the cygnet's haunt, the mantling grove
 Its emerald arch with wild luxuriance wove.

Light as the breeze that brush'd the orient dew,
 From rock to rock the young adventurer flew ;
 And day's last sunshine slept along the shore,
 When lo, a path the smile of welcome wore.
 Imbowering shrubs with verdure veil'd the sky,
 And on the musk-rose shed a deeper dye ;
 Save when a bright and momentary gleam
 Glanc'd from the white foam of some shelter'd stream.
 O'er the still lake the bell of evening toll'd,
 And on the moor the shepherd penn'd his fold ;

And on the green hill's side the meteor play'd;
 When, hark! a voice sung sweetly thro' the shade.
 It ceas'd—yet still in FLORIO's fancy sung,
 Still on each note his captive spirit hung;
 Till o'er the mead a cool, sequester'd grot
 From its rich roof a sparry lustre shot.
 A crystal water cross'd the pebbled floor,
 And on the front these simple lines it bore:
 Hence away, nor dare intrude!
 In this secret, shadowy cell
 Musing MEMORY loves to dwell,
 With her sister Solitude.
 Far from the busy world she flies,
 To taste that peace the world denies.
 Entranc'd she sits; from youth to age,
 Reviewing Life's eventful page;

And noting, ere they fade away,
The little lines of yesterday.

FLORIO had gain'd a rude and rocky seat,
When lo, the Genius of this still retreat !
Fair was her form—but who can hope to trace
The pensive softness of her angel-face ?
Can VIRGIL's verse, can RAPHAEL's touch impart
Those finer features of the feeling heart,
Those tend'rer tints that shun the careless eye,
And in the world's contagious climate die ?
She left the cave, nor mark'd the stranger there;
Her pastoral beauty, and her artless air
Had breath'd a soft enchantment o'er his soul !
In every nerve he felt her blest controul !
What pure and white-wing'd agents of the sky,
Who rule the springs of sacred sympathy,

Inform congenial spirits when they meet ?

Sweet is their office, as their natures sweet !

FLORIO, with fearful joy, pursued the maid,
 Till thro' a vista's moonlight-checquer'd shade,
 Where the bat circled, and the rooks repos'd,
 (Their wars suspended, and their councils clos'd)
 An antique mansion burst in awful state,
 A rich vine clustering round the Gothic gate.
 Nor paus'd he there. The master of the scene
 Saw his light step imprint the dewy green ;
 And, slow-advancing, hail'd him as his guest,
 Won by the honest warmth his looks express'd.
 He wore the rustic manners of a 'Squire ;
 Age had not quench'd one spark of manly fire ;
 But giant Gout had bound him in her chain,
 And his heart panted for the chase in vain.

Yet here Remembrance, sweetly-soothing power !
 •Wing'd with delight Confinement's lingering hour.
 The fox's brush still emulous to wear,
 He scour'd the county in his elbow-chair ;
 And, with view-halloo, rous'd the dreaming hound,
 That rung, by starts, his deep-ton'd music round.
 Long by the paddock's humble pale confin'd,
 His aged hunters cours'd the viewless wind :
 And each, with glowing energy pourtray'd,
 The far-fam'd triumphs of the field display'd ;
 Usurp'd the canvas of the crowded hall,
 And chas'd a line of heroes from the wall.
 There slept the horn each jocund echo knew,
 And many a smile and many a story drew !
 High o'er the hearth his forest-trophies hung,
 And their fantastic branches wildly flung.

How would he dwell on the vast antlers there !

These dash'd the wave, those fann'd the mountain-air.

All, as they frown'd, unwritten records bore,

Of gallant feats and festivals of yore.

But why the tale prolong ?—His only child,

His darling JULIA on the stranger smil'd.

Her little arts a fretful sire to please,

Her gentle gaiety, and native ease

Had won his soul ; and rapturous Fancy shed

Her golden lights, and tints of rosy red :

But ah ! few days had pass'd, ere the bright vision
fled!

When evening ting'd the lake's ethereal blue,

And her deep shades irregularly threw ;

Their shifting sail dropt gently from the cove,

Down by St. Herbert's consecrated grove ;^d

Whence erst the chanted hymn, the taper'd rite
Amus'd the fisher's solitary night :

And still the mitred window, richly wreath'd,
A sacred calm thro' the brown foliage breath'd.

The wild deer, starting thro' the silent glade,
With fearful gaze their various course survey'd.
High hung in air the hoary goat reclin'd,
His streaming beard the sport of every wind ;
And, while the coot her jet-wing lov'd to lave,
Rock'd on the bosom of the sleepless wave ;
The eagle rush'd from Skiddaw's purple crest,
A cloud still brooding o'er her giant-nest.

And now the moon had dimm'd, with dewy ray,
The few fine flushes of departing day ;
O'er the wide water's deep serene she hung,
And her broad lights on every mountain flung ;

When lo! a sudden blast the vessel blew,^e
 And to the surge consign'd the little crew.
 All, all escap'd—but ere the lover bore
 His faint and faded JULIA to the shore,
 Her sense had fled!—Exhausted by the storm,
 A fatal trance hung o'er her pallid form;
 Her closing eye a trembling lustre fir'd;
 'Twas life's last spark—it flutter'd and expir'd!
 The father strew'd his white hairs in the wind,
 Call'd on his child—nor linger'd long behind:
 And FLORIO liv'd to see the willow wave,
 With many an evening-whisper, o'er their grave.
 Yes, FLORIO liv'd—and, still of each possess,
 The father cherish'd, and the maid caress'd!
 For ever would the fond enthusiast rove,
 With JULIA'S spirit, thro' the shadowy grove;

Gaze with delight on every scene she plann'd,
 Kiss every flowret planted by her hand.
 Ah ! still he trac'd her steps along the glade,
 When hazy hues and glimmering lights betray'd
 Half-viewless forms ; still listen'd as the breeze
 Heav'd its deep sobs among the aged trees ;
 And at each pause her melting accents caught,
 In sweet delirium of romantic thought !
 Dear was the grot that shunn'd the blaze of day ;
 She gave its spars to shoot a trembling ray.
 The spring, that bubbled from its inmost cell,
 Murmur'd of JULIA's virtues as it fell ;
 And o'er the dripping moss, the fretted stone,
 In FLORIO's ear breath'd language not its own.
 Her charm around the enchantress MEMORY threw,
 A charm that soothes the mind, and sweetens too !

But is Her magic only felt below ?

Say, thro' what brighter realms she bids it flow ;

To what pure beings, in a nobler sphere,^f

She yields delight but faintly imag'd here :

All that till now their rapt researches knew,

Not call'd in slow succession to review ;

But, as a landscape meets the eye of day,

At once presented to their glad survey !

Each scene of bliss reveal'd, since chaos fled,

And dawning light its dazzling glories spread ;

Each chain of wonders that sublimely glow'd,

Since first Creation's choral anthem flow'd ;

Each ready flight, at Mercy's smile divine,

To distant worlds that undiscover'd shine ;

Full on her tablet flings its living rays,

And all, combin'd, with blest effulgence blaze.

There thy bright train, immortal Friendship, soar ;
 No more to part, to mingle tears no more !
 And, as the softening hand of Time endears
 The joys and sorrows of our infant-years,
 So there the soul, releas'd from human strife,
 Smiles at the little cares and ills of life ;
 Its lights and shades, its sunshine and its showers ;
 As at a dream that charm'd her vacant hours !
 Oft may the spirits of the dead descend
 To watch the silent slumbers of a friend ;
 To hover round his evening-walk unseen,
 And hold sweet converse on the dusky green ;
 To hail the spot where first their friendship grew,
 And heav'n and nature open'd to their view !
 Oft, when he trims his cheerful hearth, and sees
 A smiling circle emulous to please ;

There may these gentle guests delight to dwell,
And bless the scene they lov'd in life so well!

Oh, thou! with whom my heart was wont to share
From Reason's dawn each pleasure and each care;
With whom, alas! I fondly hop'd to know
The humble walks of happiness below;
If thy blest nature now unites above
An angel's pity with a brother's love,
Still o'er my life preserve thy mild controul,
Correct my views, and elevate my soul;
Grant me thy peace and purity of mind,
Devout yet cheerful, active yet resign'd;
Grant me, like thee, whose heart knew no disguise,
Whose blameless wishes never aim'd to rise,
To meet the changes Time and Chance present,
With modest dignity and calm content.

When thy last breath, ere Nature sunk to rest,
Thy meek submission to thy God express'd ;
When thy last look, ere thought and feeling fled,
A mingled gleam of hope and triumph shed ;
What to thy soul its glad assurance gave,
Its hope in death, its triumph o'er the grave ?
The sweet Remembrance of unblemish'd youth,
The still inspiring voice of Innocence and Truth !
Hail, MEMORY, hail ! in thy exhaustless mine
From age to age unnumber'd treasures shine !
Thought and her shadowy brood thy call obey,
And Place and Time are subject to thy sway !
Thy pleasures most we feel, when most alone ;
The only pleasures we can call our own.
Lighter than air, Hope's summer-visions die,
If but a fleeting cloud obscure the sky ;

If but a beam of sober Reason play,
 Lo, Fancy's fairy frost-work melts away !
 But can the wiles of Art, the grasp of Power,
 Snatch the rich relics of a well-spent hour ?
 These, when the trembling spirit wings her flight,
 Pour round her path a stream of living light ;
 And gild those pure and perfect realms of rest,
 Where Virtue triumphs, and her sons are blest !





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NOTES

ON THE FIRST PART.

NOTE a. Page 14, line 1.

Up springs at every step to claim a tear,
 I CAME to the place of my birth, and cried,
 "The friends of my Youth, where are they?"—
 And an echo answered, "Where are they?"
 From an Arabic MS.

NOTE b. P. 18, I. 7.

Awake but one, and lo, what myriads rise!
 When a traveller, who was surveying the ruins of
 Rome, expressed a desire to possess some relic of
 its antient grandeur, Poussin, who attended him,
 stooped down, and, gathering up a handful of earth
 shining with small grains of porphyry, "Take this
 home," said he, "for your cabinet; and say boldly,
Questa è Roma Antica."

NOTE c. P. 20, l. 2.

The church-yard yews round which his fathers sleep;

Every man, like Gulliver in Lilliput, is fastened to some spot of earth, by the thousand small threads which habit and association are continually stealing over him. Of these, perhaps, one of the strongest is here alluded to.

When the Canadian Indians were once solicited to emigrate, "What!" they replied, "shall we say to the bones of our fathers, Arise, and go with us into a foreign land?"

Hist. des Indes, par Raynal, vi. 21.

NOTE d. P. 20, l. 9.

So, when he breath'd his firm yet fond adieu,

See HAWKESWORTH'S Voyages, ii. 181.

Another very affecting instance of local attachment is related of his fellow-countryman Potaveri, who came to Europe with M. de Bougainville.

See LES JARDINS, chant ii.

NOTE e. P. 21, l. 1.

So Scotia's Queen, &c.

Elle se leve sur son lict, et se met à contempler
la France encore, et tant qu'elle peut.

BRANTÔME, i. 140.

NOTE f. P. 21, l. 9.

Thus kindred objects kindred thoughts inspire.

To an accidental association may be ascribed
some of the noblest efforts of human genius. The
Historian of the Decline and Fall of the Roman
Empire first conceived his design among the ruins
of the Capitol; and to the tones of a Welsh harp
are we indebted for the Bard of Gray.

GIBBON'S Hist. xii. 432. Mem. of Gray,
sect. iv. let. 25.

NOTE g. P. 21, l. 13.

Hence home-felt pleasure, &c.

Who can sufficiently admire the affectionate
attachment of Plutarch, who thus concludes his
enumeration of the advantages of a great city to

men of letters ; " As to myself, I live in a little town ; and I choose to live there, lest it should become still less."

Vit. Dem.

NOTE h. P. 21, l. 15.

For this young FOSCARI, &c.

He was suspected of murder, and at Venice suspicion is good evidence. Neither the interest of the Doge, his father, nor the intrepidity of conscious innocence, which he exhibited in the dungeon and on the rack, could procure his acquittal. He was banished to the island of Candia for life.

But here his resolution failed him. At such a distance from home he could not live ; and, as it was a criminal offence to solicit the intercession of any foreign prince, in a fit of despair he addressed a letter to the duke of Milan, and intrusted it to a wretch whose perfidy, he knew, would occasion his being remanded a prisoner to Venice.

NOTE i. P. 22, l. 12.

And watch and weep in ELOISA's cell.

The Paraclete, founded by Abelard, in Champagne.

NOTE k. P. 22, l. 13.

'Twas ever thus. As now at VIRGIL's tomb

Vows and pilgrimages are not peculiar to the religious enthusiast. Silius Italicus performed annual ceremonies on the mountain of Posilippo; and it was there that Boccaccio, *quasi da un divino estro inspirato*, resolved to dedicate his life to the muses.

NOTE l. P. 22, l. 15.

So TULLY paus'd amid the wrecks of Time.

When Cicero was quæstor in Sicily, he discovered the tomb of Archimedes by its mathematical inscription.

Tusc. Quæst. v. 3.

NOTE m. P. 23, l. 13.

Say why the pensive widow loves to weep.

The influence of the associating principle is finely

exemplified in the faithful Penelope, when she sheds
tears over the bow of Ulysses. Od. xxi. 55.

NOTE n. P. 24, l. 13.

If chance he hears the song so sweetly wild

The celebrated Ranz des Vaches ; cet air si chéri
des Suisses qu'il fut défendu sous peine de mort de
le jouer dans leurs troupes, parce qu'il faisoit fondre
en larmes, désertir ou mourir ceux qui l'entendoient,
tant il excitoit en eux l'ardent désir de revoir
leur pays. ROUSSEAU.

The maladie de pays is as old as the human
heart. JUVENAL's little cup-bearer

Suspirat longo non visam tempore matrem,
Et casulam, et notos tristes desiderat hœdos.

And the Argive, in the heat of battle,

Dulces moriens reminiscitur Argos.

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NOTE O. P. 25, l. 2.

Say why VESPASIAN lov'd his Sabine farm.

This emperor, according to Suetonius, constantly passed the summer in a small villa near Reate, where he was born, and to which he would never add any embellishment; *ne quid scilicet oculorum consuetudini deperiret.* SUET. in Vit. Vesp. cap. ii.

A similar instance occurs in the life of the venerable Pertinax, as related by J. Capitolinus. *Posteaquam in Liguriam venit, multis agris coemptis, tabernam paternam, manente forma priore, infinitis ædificiis circundedit.* Hist. August. 54.

And it is said of Cardinal Richelieu, that, when he built his magnificent palace on the site of the old family chateau at Richelieu, he sacrificed its symmetry to preserve the room in which he was born. Mém. de Mlle. de Montpensier, i. 27.

An attachment of this nature is generally the characteristic of a benevolent mind; and a long acquaintance with the world cannot always extinguish it.

"To a friend," says John Duke of Buckingham, "I will expose my weakness: I am oftener missing

a pretty gallery in the old house I pulled down, than pleased with a saloon which I built in its stead, though a thousand times better in all respects."

See his Letter to the D. of Sh.

This is the language of the heart; and will remind the reader of that good-humoured remark in one of Pope's letters—"I should hardly care to have an old post pulled up, that I remembered ever since I was a child." POPE'S Works, viii. 151.

Nor did the Poet feel the charm more forcibly than his Editor. See HURD'S Life of Warburton, 51, 99.

The elegant author of *Telemachus* has illustrated this subject, with equal fancy and feeling, in the story of *Alibée*, Persan.

NOTE p. P. 25, l. 3.

Why great NAVARRE, &c.

That amiable and accomplished monarch, Henry the Fourth of France, made an excursion from his camp, during the long siege of Laon, to dine at a house in the forest of Folambray; where he had often

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been regaled, when a boy, with fruit, milk, and new cheese ; and in revisiting which he promised himself great pleasure.

Mém. de SULLY, ii. 381.

NOTE q. P. 25, l. 5.

When DIOCLETIAN'S self-corrected mind

Diocletian retired into his native province, and there amused himself with building, planting, and gardening. His answer to Maximian is deservedly celebrated. He was solicited by that restless old man to re-assume the reins of government, and the Imperial purple. He rejected the temptation with a smile of pity, calmly observing, " that if he could shew Maximian the cabbages which he had planted with his own hands at Salona, he should no longer be urged to relinquish the enjoyment of happiness for the pursuit of power."

GIBBON, ii. 175.

NOTE r. P. 25, l. 9.

Say, when contentious CHARLES renounc'd a throne,

When the emperor Charles V had executed his memorable resolution, and had set out for the

monastery of St. Justus, he stopped a few days at Ghent, says his historian, to indulge that tender and pleasant melancholy, which arises in the mind of every man in the decline of life, on visiting the place of his nativity, and viewing the scenes and objects familiar to him in his early youth.

ROBERTSON, iv. 256.

NOTE S. P. 27, l. 1.

Then did his horse the homeward track descry.

The memory of the horse forms the groundwork of a pleasing little romance of the twelfth century, entitled, "*Lai du Palefroi vair*." See *Fabliaux ou Contes du XII et du XIII Siecle*. iv. 195.

Ariosto likewise introduces it in a passage full of truth and nature. When Bayardo meets Angelica in the forest,

. . . . Vt mansueto a la Donzella,

 Ch'in Albracca il servia già di sua mano.

ORLANDO FURIOSO, canto i. 75.

NOTE t. P. 28, l. 13.

Sweet bird! thy truth shall HARLEM's walls attest.

During the siege of Harlem, when that city was reduced to the last extremity, and on the point of opening its gates to a base and barbarous enemy, a design was formed to relieve it; and the intelligence was conveyed to the citizens by a letter which was tied under the wing of a pigeon.

THUANUS, lib. lv. c. 5.

The same messenger was employed at the siege of Mutina, as we are informed by the elder Pliny.

Hist. Nat. x. 37.

NOTE u. P. 29, l. 6.

Hark! the bee, &c.

This little animal, from the extreme convexity of her eye, cannot see many inches before her.

NOTES

ON THE SECOND PART.

NOTE X. P. 44, l. 11.

Yet still how sweet the soothings of his art !

THE astronomer chalking his figures on the wall, in Hogarth's view of Bedlam, is an admirable exemplification of this idea.

See the RAKE'S PROGRESS, plate 8.

NOTE Y. P. 45, l. 15.

Turns but to start, and gazes but to sigh !

The following stanzas are said to have been written on a blank leaf of this Poem. They present so affecting a reverse of the picture, that I cannot resist the opportunity of introducing them here.

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Pleasures of Memory !—oh supremely blest,
 And justly proud beyond a Poet's praise ;
 If the pure confines of thy tranquil breast
 Contain, indeed, the subject of thy lays!
 By me how envied !—for to me,
 The herald still of misery,
 Memory makes her influence known
 By sighs, and tears, and grief alone :
 I greet her as the fiend, to whom belong
 The vulture's ravening beak, the raven's funeral song.

She tells of time mispent, of comfort lost,
 Of fair occasions gone for ever by ;
 Of hopes too fondly nurs'd, too rudely cross'd,
 Of many a cause to wish, yet fear to die ;
 For what, except th' instinctive fear
 Lest she survive, detains me here,
 When " all the life of life " is fled ?—
 What, but the deep inherent dread,
 Lest she beyond the grave resume her reign,
 And realize the hell that priests and beldams feign ?

NOTE 2. P. 48. l. 7.

Hast thou thro' Eden's wild-wood vales pursued

On the road-side between Penrith and Appelby
 there stands a small pillar with this inscription :

" This pillar was erected in the year 1656, by

Ann Countess Dowager of Pembroke, &c. for a memorial of her last parting, in this place, with her good and pious mother, Margaret, Countess Dowager of Cumberland, on the 2d of April, 1616 · in memory whereof she hath left an annuity of 4*l.* to be distributed to the poor of the parish of Brougham, every 2d day of April for ever, upon the stone-table placed hard by. *Laus Deo !*"

The Eden is the principal river of Cumberland, and rises in the wildest part of Westmoreland.

NOTE a. P. 49, l. 1.

O'er his dead son the gallant ORMOND sigh'd.

Ormond bore the loss with patience and dignity : though he ever retained a pleasing, however melancholy, sense of the signal merit of Ossory. " I would not exchange my dead son," said he, " for any living son in Christendom."

HUME, vi. 340.

The same sentiment is inscribed on Miss Dolman's urn at the Leasowes.

*Heu, quanto minus est cum reliquis versari,
quam tui meminisse !*

NOTE b. P. 51, l. 14.

High on exulting wing the heath-cock rose.

This bird is remarkable for his exultation during the spring.

Brit. Zoology, 266.

NOTE c. P. 52, l. 2.

Derwent's clear mirror

Keswick Lake in Cumberland.

NOTE d. P. 57, l. 16.

Down by St. Herbert's consecrated grove.

A small island covered with trees, among which were formerly the ruins of a religious house.

NOTE e. P. 59, l. 1.

When lo! a sudden blast the vessel blew.

In a lake surrounded with mountains, the agitations are often violent and momentary. The winds blow in gusts and eddies; and the water no sooner swells, than it subsides.

See BOURN's Hist. of Westmoreland.

NOTE f. P. 61, l. 3.

To what pure beings, in a nobler sphere,

The several degrees of angels may probably have larger views, and some of them be endowed with capacities able to retain together, and constantly set before them, as in one picture, all their past knowledge at once.

LOCKE on Human Understanding, b. ii. c. x. 9.



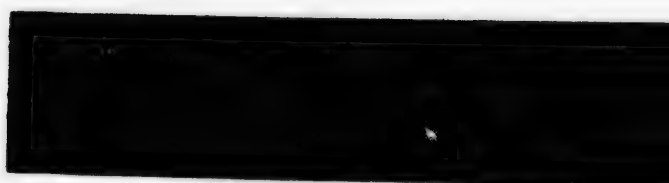
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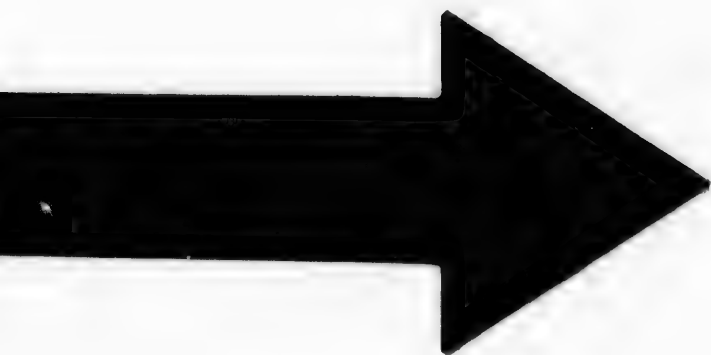
AN EPISTLE

TO

A FRIEND.

Villula, et pauper agelle,
Me tibi, et hos unâ mecum, et quos semper amavi,
Commendo.





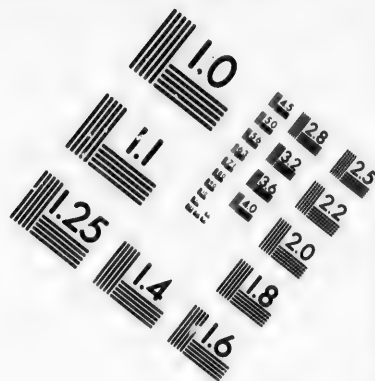
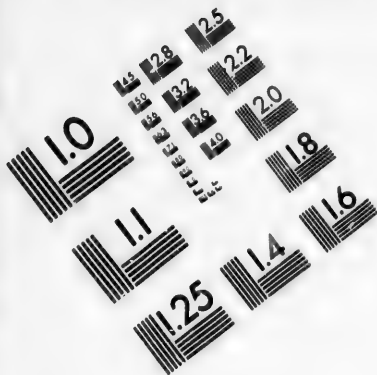
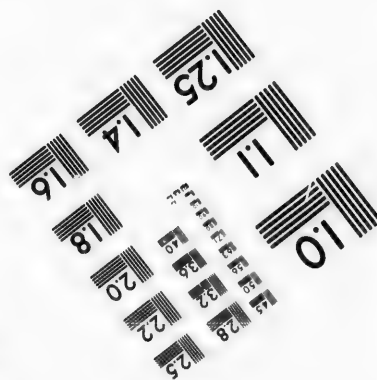
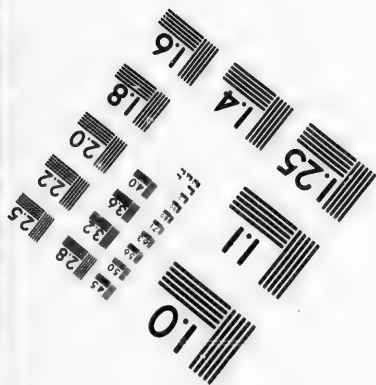
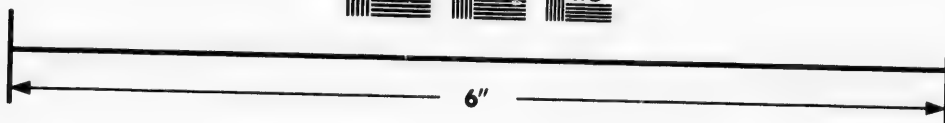
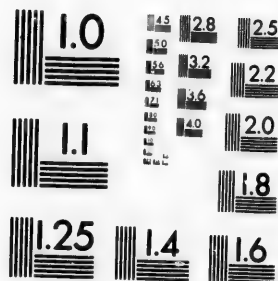


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P R E F A C E.

EVERY reader turns with pleasure to those passages of Horace, and Pope, and Boileau, which describe how they lived and where they dwelt; and which, being interspersed among their satirical writings, derive a secret and irresistible grace from the contrast, and are admirable examples of what in Painting is termed repose.

We have admittance to Horace at all hours. We enjoy the company and conversation at his table; and his suppers, like Plato's, '*non solum in præsentia, sed etiam postero die jucundæ sunt.*' But when we look round as we sit there, we find ourselves

in a Sabine farm, and not in a Roman villa. His windows have every charm of prospect; but his furniture might have descended from Cincinnatus; and gems, and pictures, and old marbles, are mentioned by him more than once with a seeming indifference.

His English Imitator thought and felt, perhaps, more correctly on the subject; and embellished his garden and grotto with great industry and success. But to these alone he solicits our notice. On the ornaments of his house he is silent; and he appears to have reserved all the minuter touches of his pencil for the library, the chapel, and the banquet-room of Timon. ‘*Le savoir de notre siècle,*’ says Rousseau, ‘*tend beaucoup plus*

à détruire qu'à édifier. On censure d'un ton de maitre ; pour proposer, il en faut prendre un autre.'

It is the design of this Epistle to illustrate the virtue of True Taste ; and to shew how little she requires to secure, not only the comforts, but even the elegancies of life. True Taste is an excellent Economist. She confines her choice to few objects, and delights in producing great effects by small means : while False Taste is for ever sighing after the new and the rare ; and reminds us, in her works, of the Scholar of Apelles, who, not being able to paint his Helen beautiful, determined to make her fine.

ARGUMENT.

An Invitation, v. 1. The approach to a Villa described, v. 5. Its situation, v. 17. Its few apartments, v. 57. furnished with casts from the Antique, &c. v. 63. The dining-room, v. 83. The library, v. 89. A cold-bath, v. 101. A winter-walk, v. 151. A summer-walk, v. 163. The invitation renewed, v. 197. Conclusion, v. 205.

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WHEN, with a REAUMUR's skill, thy curious mind
Has class'd the insect-tribes of human-kind,
Each with its busy hum, or gilded wing,
Its subtle web-work, or its venom'd sting ;
Let me, to claim a few unvalued hours,
Point the green lane that leads thro' fern and flowers ;
The shelter'd gate that opens to my field,
And the white front thro' mingling elms reveal'd.

In vain, alas, a village-friend invites
 To simple comforts, and domestic rites,
 When the gay months of Carnival resume
 Their annual round of glitter and perfume ;
 When London hails thee to its splendid mart,
 Its hives of sweets, and cabinets of art ;
 And, lo, majestic as thy manly song,
 Flows the full tide of human life along.

Still must my partial pencil love to dwell
 On the home-prospects of my hermit cell ;
 The mossy pales that skirt the orchard-green,
 Here hid by shrub-wood, there by glimpses seen ;
 And the brown pathway, that, with careless flow,
 Sinks, and is lost among the trees below.
 Still must it trace (the flattering tints forgive)
 Each fleeting charm that bids the landscape live.

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Oft o'er the mead, at pleasing distance, pass^a
 Browsing the hedge by fits the pannier'd ass;
 The idling shepherd-boy, with rude delight,
 Whistling his dog to mark the pebble's flight;
 And in her kerchief blue the cottage-maid,
 With brimming pitcher from the shadowy glade.
 Far to the south a mountain-vale retires,
 Rich in its groves, and glens, and village-spires;
 Its upland lawns, and cliffs with foliage hung,
 Its wizard-stream, nor nameless nor unsung:
 And thro' the various year, the various day,^b
 What scenes of glory burst, and melt away!
 When April-verdure springs in Grosvenor-square,
 And the furr'd Beauty comes to winter there,
 She bids old Nature mar the plan no more;
 Yet still the seasons circle as before.

Ah, still as soon the young Aurora plays,
 Tho' moons and flambeaux trail their broadest blaze,
 As soon the sky-lark pours his matin song,
 Tho' Evening lingers at the mask so long.

There let her strike with momentary ray,
 As tapers shine their little lives away;
 There let her practice from herself to steal,
 And look the happiness she does not feel;
 The ready smile and bidden blush employ
 At Faro-routs that dazzle to destroy;
 Fan with affected ease the essenc'd air,
 And lisp of fashions with unmeaning stare.
 Be thine to meditate an humbler flight,
 When morning fills the fields with rosy light;
 Be thine to blend, nor thine a vulgar aim,
 Repose with dignity, with Quiet fame.

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blaze ;

Here no state-chambers in long line unfold,
 Bright with broad mirrors, rough with fretted gold;
 Yet modest ornament, with use combin'd,
 Attracts the eye to exercise the mind.
 Small change of scene, small space his home requires,^c
 Who leads a life of satisfied desires.

What tho' no marble breathes, no canvass glows,
 From every point a ray of genius flows !^d
 Be mine to bless the more mechanic skill,
 That stamps, renews, and multiplies at will ;
 And cheaply circulates, thro' distant climes,
 The fairest relics of the purest times.
 Here from the mould to conscious being start
 Those finer forms, the miracles of art ;
 Here chosen gems, imprest on sulphur, shine,
 That slept for ages in a second mine ;

And here the faithful graver dares to trace
 A MICHAEL's grandeur, and a RAPHAEL's grace !
 Thy gallery, Florence, gilds my humble walls,
 And my low roof the Vatican recalls !

Soon as the morning-dream my pillow flies,
 To waking sense what brighter visions rise !
 O mark ! again the coursers of the Sun,^c
 At GUIDO's call, their round of glory run !
 Again the rosy Hours resume their flight,
 Obscur'd and lost in floods of golden light !

But could thine erring friend so long forget
 (Sweet source of pensive joy and fond regret)
 That here its warmest hues the pencil flings,
 Lo ! here the lost restores, the absent brings ;
 And still the Few best lov'd and most rever'd †
 Rise round the board their social smile endear'd ?

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Selected shelves shall claim thy studious hours ;
 There shall thy ranging mind be fed on flowers !*
 There, while the shaded lamp's mild lustre streams,
 Read antient books, or woo inspiring dreams ; ‡
 And, when a sage's bust arrests thee there,^h
 Pause, and his features with his thoughts compare.
 —Ah, most that Art my grateful rapture calls,
 Which breathes a soul into the silent walls ; †
 Which gathers round the Wise of every Tongue, †
 All on whose words departed nations hung ;
 Still prompt to charm with many a converse sweet ;
 Guides in the world, companions in retreat !

* —apis Matinæ

More modoque

Grata carpentis thyma—— HOR.

† Postea verò quàm Tyrannio mihi libros disposuit, mens
 addita videtur meis ædibus. Crc.

Tho' my thatch'd bath no rich Mosaic knows,
 A limpid spring with unfelt current flows.
 Emblem of Life! which, still as we survey,
 Seems motionless, yet ever glides away!
 The shadowy walls record, with Attic art,
 The strength and beauty that its waves impart.
 Here THETIS, bending, with a mother's fears
 Dips her dear boy, whose pride restrains his tears.
 There, VENUS, rising, shrinks with sweet surprize,
 As her fair self reflected seems to rise!
 Far from the joyless glare, the maddening strife,
 And all ' the dull impertinence of life,'
 These eyelids open to the rising ray,
 And close, when Nature bids, at close of day.
 Here, at the dawn, the kindling landscape glows;
 There noon-day levees call from faint repose.

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Here the flush'd wave flings back the parting light;
 There glimmering lamps anticipate the night.
 When from his classic dreams the student steals,*
 Amid the buzz of crowds, the whirl of wheels,
 To muse unnotic'd—while around him press
 The meteor-forms of equipage and dress;
 Alone, in wonder lost, he seems to stand
 A very stranger in his native land!
 And (tho' perchance of current coin possess,
 And modern phrase by living lips exprest)
 Like those blest Youths, forgive the fabling page,^k
 Whose blameless lives deceiv'd a twilight age,
 Spent in sweet slumbers; till the miner's spade
 Unclos'd the cavern, and the morning play'd.

* Ingenium, sibi quod vacuas desumsit Athenas,
 Et studiis annos septem dedit, insenuitque
 Libris et curis, statuâ taciturnius exit
 Plerumque——

HOR.

Ah, what their strange surprize, their wild delight !
 New arts of life, new manners meet their sight !
 In a new world they wake, as from the dead ;
 Yet doubt the trance dissolv'd, the vision fled !

O come, and, rich in intellectual wealth,
 Blend thought with exercise, with knowledge health !
 Long, in this shelter'd scene of letter'd talk,
 With sober step repeat the pensive walk ;
 Nor scorn, when graver triflings fail to please,
 The cheap amusements of a mind at ease ;
 Here every care in sweet oblivion cast,
 And many an idle hour—not idly pass'd.

No tuneful echoes, ambush'd at my gate,
 Catch the blest accents of the wise and great. !
 Vain of its various page, no Album breathes
 The sigh that Friendship or the Muse bequeaths.

Yet some good Genii o'er my hearth preside,
 Oft the far friend, with secret spell, to guide ;
 And there I trace, when the grey evening lours,
 A silent chronicle of happier hours !

When Christmas revels in a world of snow,
 And bids her berries blush, her carols flow ;
 His spangling shower when Frost the wizard flings ;
 Or, borne in ether blue, on viewless wings,
 O'er the white pane his silvery foliage weaves,
 And gems with icicles the sheltering eaves ;
 —Thy muffled friend his nectarine-wall pursues,
 What time the sun the yellow crocus wooes,
 Screen'd from the arrowy North ; and duly hies *
 To meet the morning-rumour as it flies ;

* Fallacem circum, vespertinumque pererro
 Sæpe forum. HOR.

To range the murmuring market-place, and view
The motley groups that faithful TENIERS drew.

When Spring bursts forth in blossoms thro' the vale,
And her wild music triumphs on the gale,
Oft with my book I muse from stile to stile ; *
Oft in my porch the listless noon beguile,
Framing loose humbers, till declining day
Thro' the green trellis shoots a crimson ray ;
Till the West-wind leads on the twilight hours,
And shakes the fragrant bells of closing flowers.

Nor boast, O Choisy ! seat of soft delight,
The secret charm of thy voluptuous night.
Vain is the blaze of wealth, the pomp of power !
Lo, here, attendant on the shadowy hour,

* Tantôt, un livre en main, errant dans les prées—

Thy closet-supper, serv'd by hands unseen,
 Sheds, like an evening-star, its ray serene,^m
 To hail our coming. Not a step prophane
 Dares, with rude sound, the cheerful rite restrain ;
 And, while the frugal banquet glows reveal'd,
 Pure and unbought,*—the natives of my field ;
 While blushing fruits thro' scattered leaves invite,
 Still clad in bloom, and veil'd in azure light ;—
 With wine, as rich in years as HORACE sings,
 With water, clear as his own fountain flings,
 The shifting side-board plays its humbler part,
 Beyond the triumphs of a Lorient's art.ⁿ

Thus, in this calm recess, so richly fraught
 With mental light, and luxury of thought,

* —dapes inemtās.

HOR.

My life steals on ; (O could it blend with thine !)
 Careless my course, yet not without design.
 So thro' the vales of Loire the bee-hives glide,^o
 The light raft dropping with the silent tide ;
 So, till the laughing scenes are lost in night,
 The busy people wing their various flight,
 Culling unnumber'd sweets from nameless flowers,
 That scent the vineyard in its purple hours.
 Rise, ere the watch-relieving clarions play,
 Caught thro' St. James's groves at blush of day ;
 Ere its full voice the choral anthem flings
 Thro' trophied tombs of heroes and of kings.
 Haste to the tranquil shade of learned ease,*
 Tho' skill'd alike to dazzle and to please ;

* *Innocuas amo delicias doctamque quietem.*

Tho' each gay scene be search'd with anxious eye,
Nor thy shut door be pass'd without a sigh.

 If, when this roof shall know thy friend no more,
Some, form'd like thee, should once, like thee, explore ;
Invoke the lares of his lov'd retreat,
And his lone walks imprint with pilgrim-feet ;
Then be it said, (as, vain of better days,
Some grey domestic prompts the partial praise)
“ Unknown he liv'd, unenvied, not unblest ;
Reason his guide, and Happiness his guest.
In the clear mirror of his moral page,
We trace the manners of a purer age.
His soul, with thirst of genuine glory fraught,
Scorn'd the false lustre of licentious thought.
—One fair asylum from the world he knew,
One chosen seat, that charms with various view !

Who boasts of more (believe the serious strain)
Sighs for a home, and sighs, alas ! in vain.
Thro' each he roves, the tenant of a day,
And, with the swallow, wings the year away !" P



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NOTES.

NOTE a. Page 91, l. 1.

Oft o'er the mead, at pleasing distance, pass

Cosmo of Medicis delighted most in his Apennine villa, because all that he commanded from its windows was exclusively his own.

How unlike the wise Athenian, who, when he had a farm to sell, directed the cryer to proclaim, as its best recommendation, that it had a good neighbourhood.

PLUT. in Vit. Themist.

NOTE b. P. 91, l. 11.

And, thro' the various year, the various day,

Horace commends the house, 'longos quæ prospicit agros.'

Distant views contain the greatest variety, both in themselves, and in their accidental variations.

GILPIN on the High-Lands of Scotland.

NOTE C. P. 93, l. 5.

Small change of scene, small space his home requires,

Many a great man, in passing through the apartments of his palace, has made the melancholy reflection of the venerable Cosmo : “ Questa è troppo gran casa à si poco famiglia.”

MACH. Ist. Fior. lib. vii.

“ Parva, sed apta mihi,” was Ariosto’s inscription over his door in Ferrara ; and who can wish to say more ?

“ I confess,” says Cowley, “ I love littleness almost in all things. A little convenient estate, a little cheerful house, a little company, and a very little feast.”

Essay vi.

When Socrates was asked why he had built for himself so small a house, "Small as it is," he replied, "I wish I could fill it with friends."

PHÆDRUS, l. iii. 9.

These indeed are all that a wise man would desire to assemble; "for a crowd is not company, and faces are but a gallery of pictures, and talk but a tinkling cymbal, where there is no love."

BACON'S Essays, xxvii.

NOTE d. P. 93, l. 8.

From every point a ray of genius flows!

By this means, when all nature wears a lowering countenance, I withdraw myself into the visionary worlds of art; where I meet with shining landscapes, gilded triumphs, beautiful faces, and all those other objects that fill the mind with gay ideas, &c.

ADDISON.

It is remarkable that Antony, in his adversity, passed some time in a small but splendid retreat, which he called his Timonium, and from which

might originate the idea of the Parisian Boudoir, that favourite apartment, *ou l'on se retire pour être seul, mais ou l'on ne boude point.*

STRABO, l. xvii. PLUT. in Vit. Anton.

NOTE e. P. 94, l. 7.

*O mark! again the coursers of the Sun,
At GUIDO's call, &c.*

Alluding to his celebrated fresco in the Rospigliosi Palace at Rome.

NOTE f. P. 94, l. 15.

And still the Few best lov'd and most rever'd

The dining-room is dedicated to Conviviality; or, as Cicero somewhere expresses it, "*Communitati vitæ atque victûs.*" There we wish most for the society of our friends; and, perhaps, in their absence, most require their portraits.

The moral advantages of this furniture may be illustrated by the pretty story of an Athenian courtesan, "who, in the midst of a riotous banquet with her lovers, accidentally cast her eye on the portrait of a philosopher, that hung opposite to her seat: the happy character of temperance and virtue struck her with so lively an image of her own unworthiness, that she instantly quitted the room; and, retiring home, became ever after an example of temperance, as she had been before of debauchery."

WEBB'S Inquiry into the Beauties of
Painting, p. 33.

NOTE g. P. 95, l. 4.

Read antient books, or woo inspiring dreams;

The reader will here remember that passage of Horace,

Nunc veterum libris, nunc somno, &c.

which was inscribed by Lord Chesterfield on the frieze of his library.

NOTE h. P. 95, l. 5.

And, when a sage's bust arrests thee there,

Siquidem non solum ex auro argentove, aut certe ex ære in bibliothecis dicantur illi, quorum immortales animæ in iisdem locis ibi loquuntur : quinimo etiam quæ non sunt, finguntur, pariuntque desideria non traditi vultus, sicut in Homero evenit. Quo majus (ut equidem arbitror) nullum est felicitatis specimen, quam semper omnes scire cupere, qualis fuerit aliquis.

PLIN. Nat. Hist. xxxv. 2.

Cicero speaks with pleasure of a little seat under Aristotle in the library of Atticus. "Literis sustentor et recreor ; maloque in illa tua sedecula, quam habes sub imagine Aristotelis, sedere, quàm in istorum sella curuli!"

Ep. ad Att. iv. 10.

Nor should we forget that Dryden drew inspiration from the "majestic face" of Shakspeare ; and that a portrait of Newton was the only ornament of the closet of Buffon.

Ep. to Kneller. Voyage à Montbart.

In the chamber of a man of genius we

Write all down :

Such and such pictures ;—there the window ;

. the arras, figures,

Why, such and such.

CYMBELINE.

NOTE i. P. 95, l. 9.

Which gathers round the Wise of every Tongue,

Quis tantis non gaudeat et gloriatur hospitibus, exclaims Petrarch.—Spectare, etsi nihil aliud, certè juvat.—Homerus apud me mutus, imò verò ego apud illum surdus sum. Gaudeo tamen vel aspectû solo, et sæpe illum amplexus ac suspirans dico: O magne vir, &c. Epist. Var. Lib. 20.

NOTE k. P. 97, l. 11.

Like those blest Youths,

See the Legend of the Seven Sleepers.

GIBBON. C. 33.

NOTE l. P. 98, l. 14.

Catch the blest accents of the wise and great.

Mr. Pope delights in enumerating his illustrious guests. Nor is this an exclusive privilege of the

poet. The Medici Palace at Florence exhibits a long and imposing catalogue. "Semper hi parietes columnæque eruditis vocibus resonuerunt."

Another is also preserved at Chanteloup, the seat of the Duke of Choiseul.

NOTE m. P. 101, l. 2.

Sheds, like an evening-star, its ray serene,

At a Roman supper statues were sometimes employed to hold the lamps.

—Aurea sunt juvenum simulacra per ædeis,
Lampadas igniferas manibus retinentia dextris.

LUCR. ii. 24.

A fashion as old as Homer! Odyss. vii. 100.

On the proper degree and distribution of light we may consult a great master of effect. Il lume grande, ed alto, e non troppo potente, sarà quello, che renderà le particole de' corpi molto grate.

Tratt. della Pittura di LIONARDO DA VINCI,
c. xli.

Hence every artist requires a broad and high light. Hence also, in a banquet-scene, the most picturesque of all poets has thrown his light from the ceiling. Æneid. i. 726.

And hence the "starry lamps" of Milton, that

. . . . from the arched roof
 Pendent by subtle magic,
 yielded light
 As from a sky.

Paradise Lost, i. 726.

NOTE n. P. 101, l. 2.

Beyond the triumphs of a Lorient's art.

At the petits soupés of Choisy were first introduced those admirable pieces of mechanism, afterwards carried to perfection by Lorient, the Confidante and the Servante; a table and a side-board, which descended, and rose again covered with viands and wines. And thus the most luxurious Court in Europe, after all its boasted refinements, was glad to return at last, by this singular contrivance, to the quiet and privacy of humble life.

Vie privée de Louis XV. tom. ii. p. 43.

NOTE o. P. 102, l. 3.

So thro' the vales of Loire the bee-hives glide,

An allusion to the floating bee-house, or barge

laden with bee-hives, which is seen in some parts of France and Piedmont.

NOTE p. P. 104, l. 4.

And, with the swallow, wings the year away!

It was the boast of Lucullus that he changed his climate with the birds of passage.

PLUT. in Vit. Lucull.

How often must he have felt the truth here inculcated, that the master of many houses has no home!





ODE TO SUPERSTITION.*

I. 1.

HENCE, to the realms of Night, dire Demon, hence!

Thy chain of adamant can bind

That little world, the human mind,

And sink its noblest powers to impotence.

Wake the lion's loudest roar,

Clot his shaggy mane with gore,

* Written in the year 1784.

With flashing fury bid his eye-balls shine;
 Meek is his savage, sullen soul, to thine!
 Thy touch, thy deadening touch has steel'd the breast,*
 Whence, thro' her rainbow-shower, soft Pity smil'd;
 Has clos'd the heart each godlike virtue bless'd,
 To all the silent pleadings of his child.
 At thy command he plants the dagger deep,
 At thy command exults, tho' Nature bids him weep!

I. 2.

When, with a frown that froze the peopled earth, †
 Thou dartedst thy huge head from high,
 Night wav'd her banners o'er the sky,
 And, brooding, gave her shapeless shadows birth.
 Rocking on the billowy air,
 Ha! what withering phantoms glare!

* An allusion to the sacrifice of Iphigenia. † Lucretius, I. 63.

As blows the blast with many a sudden swell,
 At each dead pause, what shrill-ton'd voices yell!
 The sheeted spectre, rising from the tomb,
 Points at the murderer's stab, and shudders by;
 In every grove is felt a heavier gloom,
 That veils its genius from the vulgar eye:
 The spirit of the water rides the storm,
 And, thro' the mist, reveals the terrors of his form.

I. 3.

O'er solid seas, where Winter reigns,
 And holds each mountain-wave in chains,
 The fur-clad savage, ere he guides his deer*
 By glistening star-light thro' the snow,
 Breathes softly in her wondering ear
 Each potent spell thou bad'st him know.

* When we were ready to set out, our host muttered some words in the ears of our cattle. See a Voyage to the North of Europe in 1653.

By thee inspir'd, on India's sands, *
 Full in the sun the Bramin stands;
 And, while the panting tigress hies
 To quench her fever in the stream,
 His spirit laughs in agonies, †
 Smit by the scorplings of the noontide beam.
 Mark who mounts the sacred pyre,
 Blooming in her bridal vest:
 She hurls the torch! she fans the fire!
 To die is to be blest: ‡
 She clasps her lord to part no more,
 And, sighing, sinks! but sinks to soar.

* The Bramins expose their bodies to the intense heat of the sun.

† Ridens moriar. The conclusion of an old Runic ode.

‡ In the Bedas, or sacred writings of the Hindoos, it is written: "She, who dies with her husband, shall live for ever with him in heaven."

O'ershadowing Scotia's desert coast,
 The Sisters sail in dusky state, *
 And, wrapt in clouds, in tempests tost,
 Weave the airy web of fate;
 While the lone shepherd, near the shipless main, †
 Sees o'er her hills advance the long-drawn funeral train.

II. 1.

Thou spak'st, and lo! a new creation glow'd.
 Each unhewn mass of living stone
 Was clad in horrors not its own,
 And at its base the trembling nations bow'd.
 Giant Error, darkly grand,
 Grasp'd the globe with iron hand.
 Circled with seats of bliss, the Lord of Light

* The Fates of the Northern Mythology. See MALLET'S Antiquities.

† An allusion to the Second Sight.

Saw prostrate worlds adore his golden height.
 The statue, waking with immortal powers, *
 Springs from its parent earth, and shakes the spheres ;
 The indignant pyramid sublimely towers,
 And braves the efforts of a host of years.
 Sweet Music breathes her soul into the wind ;
 And bright-ey'd Painting stamps the image of the mind.

II. 2.

Round their rude ark old Egypt's sorcerers rise !

A timbrell'd anthem swells the gale,

And bids the God of Thunders hail ; †

With lowings loud the captive God replies.

Clouds of incense woo thy smile,

Scaly monarch of the Nile ! ‡

* See that fine description of the sudden animation of the Palladium in the second book of the *Æneid*.

† The bull, Apis.

‡ The Crocodile.

But ah! what myriads claim the bended knee? *

Go, count the busy drops that swell the sea.

Proud land! what eye can trace thy mystic lore,

Lock'd up in characters as dark as night? †

What eye those long, long labyrinths dare explore, ‡

To which the parted soul oft wings her flight;

Again to visit her cold cell of clay,

Charm'd with perennial sweets, and smiling at decay?

II. 3.

On yon hoar summit, mildly bright §

With purple ether's liquid light,

High o'er the world, the white-rob'd Magi gaze

* So numerous were the Deities of Egypt, that, according to an ancient proverb, it was in that country less difficult to find a god than a man.

† The Hieroglyphics.

‡ The Catacombs, in which the bodies of the earliest generations yet remain without corruption, by virtue of the gums that embalmed them.

§ "The Persians," says Herodotus, "reject the use of temples, altars, and statues. The tops of the highest mountains are the places

On dazzling bursts of heavenly fire ;
 Start at each blue, portentous blaze,
 Each flame that flits with adverse spire.
 But say, what sounds my ear invade *
 From Delphi's venerable shade ?
 The temple rocks, the laurel waves !
 " The God ! the God ! " the Sybil cries.
 Her figure swells ! she foams, she raves !
 Her figure swells to more than mortal size !
 Streams of rapture roll along,
 Silver notes ascend the skies :
 Wake, Echo, wake and catch the song,
 Oh catch it, ere it dies !
 The Sybil speaks, the dream is o'er,
 The holy harpings charm no more.
 chosen for sacrifices." I. 131. The elements, and more particularly
 Fire, were the objects of their religious reverence.
 * An imitation of some wonderful lines in the *Æneid*.

In vain she checks the God's controul;
 His madding spirit fills her frame,
 And moulds the features of her soul,
 Breathing a prophetic flame.
 The cavern frowns; its hundred mouths unclose!
 And, in the thunder's voice, the fate of empire flows.

III. 1.

Mona, thy Druid-rites awake the dead !
 Rites thy brown oaks would never dare
 Ev'n whisper to the idle air;
 Rites that have chain'd old Ocean on his bed.
 Shiver'd by thy piercing glance,
 Pointless falls the hero's lance.
 Thy magic bids the imperial eagle fly, *
 And blasts the laureate wreath of victory.

* See Tacitus, l. xiv. c. 23

Hark, the bard's soul inspires the vocal string!
 At every pause dread Silence hovers o'er:
 While murky Night sails round on raven-wing,
 Deepening the tempest's howl, the torrent's roar;
 Chas'd by the morn from Snowdon's awful brow,
 Where late she sate and scowl'd on the black wave below.

III. 2.

Lo, steel-clad War his gorgeous standard rears!
 The red-cross squadrons madly rage,*
 And mow thro' infancy and age;
 Then kiss the sacred dust and melt in tears.
 Veiling from the eye of day,
 Penance dreams her life away;
 In cloister'd solitude she sits and sighs,

* This remarkable event happened at the siege and sack of Jerusalem, in the last year of the eleventh century. Hume, I. 221.

While from each shrine still, small responses rise.
 Hear, with what heart-felt beat, the midnight bell
 Swings its slow summons thro' the hollow pile!
 The weak, wan votarist leaves her twilight cell,
 To walk, with taper dim, the winding isle;
 With choral chantings vainly to aspire,
 Beyond this nether sphere, on Rapture's wing of fire.

III. 3.

Lord of each pang the nerves can feel,
 Hence, with the rack and reeking wheel.
 Faith lifts the soul above this little ball!
 While gleams of glory open round,
 And circling choirs of angels call,
 Can'st thou, with all thy terrors crown'd,
 Hope to obscure that latent spark,
 Destin'd to shine when suns are dark?

Thy triumphs cease! thro' every land,
 Hark! Truth proclaims, thy triumphs cease:
 Her heavenly form, with glowing hand,
 Benignly points to piety and peace.
 Flush'd with youth, her looks impart
 Each fine feeling as it flows;
 Her voice the echo of her heart,
 Pure as the mountain-snows:
 Celestial transports round her play,
 And softly, sweetly die away.
 She smiles! and where is now the cloud
 That blacken'd o'er thy baleful reign?
 Grim darkness furls his leaden shroud,
 Shrinking from her glance in vain
 Her touch unlocks the day-spring from above,
 And lo! it visits man with beams of light and love.

Y ES

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* A

Royal



VERSES

WRITTEN TO BE SPOKEN BY

MRS. SIDDONS.*

YES, 'tis the pulse of life ! my fears were vain !

I wake, I breathe, and am myself again.

* After a Tragedy, performed for her benefit, at the Theatre Royal in Drury-lane, April 27, 1795.

Still in this nether world; no seraph yet!
 Nor walks my spirit, when the sun is set,
 With troubled step to haunt the fatal board,
 Where I died last—by poison or the sword;
 Blanching each honest cheek with deeds of night,
 Done here so oft by dim and doubtful light.

—To drop all metaphor, that little bell
 Call'd back reality, and broke the spell.
 No heroine claims your tears with tragic tone;
 A very woman—scarce restrains her own!
 Can she, with fiction, charm the cheated mind,
 When to be grateful is the part assign'd?
 Ah, No! she scorns the trappings of her Art,
 No theme but truth, no prompter but the heart!

But, Ladies, say, must I alone unmask?
 Is here no other actress? let me ask.

Believe me, those, who best the heart dissect,
 Know every Woman studies stage-effect.
 She moulds her manners to the part she fills,
 As Instinct teaches, or as Humour will;
 And, as the grave or gay her talent calls,
 Acts in the drama, till the curtain falls.

First, how her little breast with triumph swells,
 When the red coral rings its golden bells!
 To play in pantomime is then the *rage*,
 Along the carpet's many-colour'd stage;
 Or lisp her merry thoughts with loud endeavour,
 Now here, now there—in noise and mischief ever!

A school-girl next, she curls her hair in papers,
 And mimics father's gout, and mother's vapours;
 Discards her doll, bribes Betty for romances;
 Playful at church, and serious when she dances;

Tramples alike on customs and on toes,
 And whispers all she hears to all she knows ;
 Terror of caps, and wigs, and sober notions !
 A romp ! that *longest* of perpetual motions !
 —Till tam'd and tortur'd into foreign graces,
 She sports her lovely face at public places ;
 And with blue, laughing eyes, behind her fan,
 First acts her part with that great actor, MAN.

Too soon a flirt, approach her and she flies !
 Frowns when pursued, and, when entreated, sighs !
 Plays with unhappy men as cats with mice ;
 Till fading beauty hints the late advice.
 Her prudence dictates what her pride disdain'd,
 And now she sues to slaves herself had chain'd !

Then comes that good old character, a Wife,
 With all the dear, distracting cares of life ;

A thousand cards a day at doors to leave,
 And, in return, a thousand cards receive ;
 Rouge high, play deep, to lead the ton aspire,
 With nightly blaze set PORTLAND-PLACE on fire ;
 Snatch half a glimpse at Concert, Opera, Ball,
 A Meteor, trac'd by none, tho' seen by all ;
 And, when her shatter'd nerves forbid to roam,
 In very spleen—rehearse the girls at home.

Last the grey Dowager, in antient flounces,
 With snuff and spectacles the age denounces ;
 Boasts how the Sires of this degenerate Isle
 Knelt for a look, and duell'd for a smile.
 The scourge and ridicule of Goth and Vandal,
 Her tea she sweetens, as she sips, with scandal ;
 With modern Belles eternal warfare wages,
 Like her own birds that clamour from their cages ;

And shuffles round to bear her tale to all,
Like some old Ruin, 'nodding to its fall!'

Thus WOMAN makes her entrance and her exit;
Not least an actress, when she least suspects it.
Yet Nature oft peeps out and mends the plot,
Each lesson lost, each poor pretence forgot;
Full oft, with energy that scorns controul,
At once lights up the features of the soul;
Unlocks each thought chain'd down by coward Art,
And to full day the latent passions start!

—And she, whose first, best wish is your applause,
Herself exemplifies the truth she draws.
Born on the stage—thro' every shifting scene,
Obscure or bright, tempestuous or serene,
Still has your smile her trembling spirit fir'd!
And can she act, with thoughts like these inspir'd!

*Thus from her mind all artifice she flings,
All skill, all practice, now unmeaning things !
To you, uncheck'd, each genuine feeling flows ;
For all that life endears—to you she owes.*



To - - - - -

Go—you may call it madness, folly;
You shall not chase my gloom away.
There's such a charm in melancholy,
I would not, if I could, be gay.

Oh, if you knew the pensive pleasure
That fills my bosom when I sigh,
You would not rob me of a treasure
Monarchs are too poor to buy.



THE SAILOR.

THE Sailor sighs as sinks his native shore,
As all its lessening turrets blueely fade ;
He climbs the mast to feast his eye once more,
And busy Fancy fondly lends her aid.

Ah! now, each dear, domestic scene he knew,
 Recall'd and cherish'd in a foreign clime,
 Charms with the magic of a moonlight-view;
 Its colours mellow'd, not impair'd, by time.

True as the needle, homeward points his heart,
 Thro' all the horrors of the stormy main;
 This, the last wish that would with life depart,
 To meet the smile of her he loves again.

When Morn first faintly draws her silver line,
 Or Eve's grey cloud descends to drink the wave;
 When sea and sky in midnight darkness join,
 Still, still he views the parting look she gave;

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Her gentle spirit, lightly hovering o'er,
Attends his little bark from pole to pole ;
And, when the beating billows round him roar,
Whispers sweet hope to sooth his troubled soul.

Carv'd is her name in many a spicy grove,
In many a plantain-forest, waving wide ;
Where dusky youths in painted plumage rove,
And giant palms o'er-arch the golden tide.

But lo, at last he comes with crowded sail !
Lo, o'er the cliff what eager figures bend !
And hark, what mingled murmurs swell the gale !
In each he hears the welcome of a friend.

—'Tis she, 'tis she herself! she waves her hand!
 Soon is the anchor cast, the canvass furl'd;
 Soon thro' the whitening surge he springs to land,
 And clasps the maid he singled from the world.



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TO AN OLD OAK.

*Immota manet; multosque nepotes,
 Multa virûm volvens durando sæcula, vincit. VIRG.*

ROUND thee, alas, no shadows move!
 From thee no sacred murmurs breathe!
 Yet within thee, thyself a grove,
 Once did the eagle scream above,
 And the wolf howl beneath.

There once the steel-clad knight reclin'd,
 His sable plumage tempest-toss'd;
 And, as the death-bell smote the wind,
 From towers long fled by human kind,
 His brow the hero cross'd!

Then Culture came, and days serene ;
And village-sports, and garlands gay.
Full many a pathway cross'd the green ;
And maids and shepherd-youths were seen
To celebrate the May.

Father of many a forest deep,
Whence many a navy thunder-fraught ;
Erst in their acorn-cells asleep,
Soon destin'd o'er the world to sweep,
Opening new spheres of thought !

Wont in the night of woods to dwell,
The holy druid saw thee rise ;
And, planting there the guardian-spell,
Sung forth, the dreadful pomp to swell
Of human sacrifice !

Thy singed top and branches bare
Now straggle in the evening sky;
And the wan moon wheels round to glare
On the long corse that shivers there
Of him who came to die!



FRAGMENTS

FROM

EURIPIDES.

DEAR is that valley to the murmuring bees.
The small birds build there ; and, at summer-noon,
Oft have I heard a child, gay among flowers,
As in the shining grass she sate conceal'd,
Sing to herself.

There is a streamlet issuing from a rock.
The village-girls, singing wild madrigals,
Dip their white vestments in its waters clear,
And hang them to the sun. There first I saw her.

Her dark and eloquent eyes, mild, full of fire,
'Twas heav'n to look upon ; and her sweet voice,
As tuneable as harp of many strings,
At once spoke joy and sadness to my soul !





W

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Play'd

TO

TWO SISTERS.*

WELL may you sit within, and, fond of grief,
Look in each other's face, and melt in tears.
Well may you shun all counsel, all relief.
Oh she was great in mind, tho' young in years !

Chang'd is that lovely countenance, which shed
Light when she spoke ; and kindled sweet surprise,
As o'er her frame each warm emotion spread,
Play'd round her lips, and sparkled in her eyes.

* On the death of a younger sister.

Those lips so pure, that mov'd but to persuade,
Still to the last enliven'd and endear'd.

Those eyes at once her secret soul convey'd,
And ever beam'd delight when you appear'd.

Yet has she fled the life of bliss below,
That youthful Hope in bright perspective drew?
False were the tints! false as the feverish glow
That o'er her burning cheek Distemper threw!

And now in joy she dwells, in glory moves!
(Glory and joy reserv'd for you to share.)
Far, far more blest in blessing those she loves,
Than they, alas! unconscious of her care.

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WRITTEN AT MIDNIGHT.

1786.

WHILE thro' the broken pane the tempest sighs,
And my step falters on the faithless floor,
Shades of departed joys around me rise,
With many a face that smiles on me no more ;
With many a voice that thrills of transport gave,
Now silent as the grass that tufts their grave !

ON A TEAR

OH ! that the Chemist's magic art
Could crystallize this sacred treasure !
Long should it glitter near my heart,
A secret source of pensive pleasure.

The little brilliant, ere it fell,
Its lustre caught from CHLOE's eye ;
Then, trembling, left its coral cell—
The spring of Sensibility !

Sweet drop of pure and pearly light !
In thee the rays of Virtue shine ;
More calmly clear, more mildly bright,
Than any gem that gilds the mine.

Benign restorer of the soul !
Who ever fly'st to bring relief,
When first we feel the rude controul
Of Love or Pity, Joy or Grief.

The sage's and the poet's theme,
In every clime, in every age ;
Thou charm'st in Fancy's idle dream,
In Reason's philosophic page.

That very law* which moulds a tear,
And bids it trickle from its source,
That law preserves the earth a sphere,
And guides the planets in their course.

* The law of Gravitation.



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TO A VOICE THAT HAD BEEN LOST.

Vane, quid affectas faciem mihi ponere, pictor ?
 Aëris et linguæ sum filia;
 Et, si vis similem pingere, pinge sonum.

AUSONIUS.

ONCE more, Enchantress of the soul,
 Once more we hail thy soft controul.
 —Yet whither, whither didst thou fly ?
 To what bright region of the sky ?
 Say, in what distant star to dwell ?
 (Of other worlds thou seemst to tell)
 Or trembling, fluttering here below,
 Resolv'd and unresolv'd to go,
 In secret didst thou still impart
 Thy raptures to the Pure in heart ?
 Perhaps to many a desert shore,
 Thee, in his rage, the Tempest bore ;

Thy broken murmurs swept along,
 Mid Echoes yet untun'd by song ;
 Arrested in the realms of Frost,
 Or in the wilds of Ether lost.

—Far happier thou ! 'twas thine to soar,
 Careering on the winged wind.
 Thy triumphs who shall dare explore ?
 Suns and their systems left behind.
 No tract of space, no distant star,
 No shock of elements at war,
 Did thee detain. Thy wing of fire
 Bore thee amidst the Cherub-choir ;
 And there awhile to thee 'twas giv'n
 Once more that Voice * below'd to join,
 Which taught thee first a flight divine,
 And nurs'd thy infant years with many a strain from
 Heav'n !

* The late Mrs. Sheridan's.

WHILE

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FROM A GREEK EPIGRAM.

WHILE on the cliff with calm delight she kneels,
And the blue vales a thousand joys recall,
See, to the last, last verge her infant steals !
O fly—yet stir not, speak not, lest it fall.

Far better taught, she lays her bosom bare,
And the fond boy springs back to nestle there.

TO THE FRAGMENT OF
 A STATUE OF HERCULES,
 COMMONLY CALLED
 THE TORSO.

AND dost thou still, thou mass of breathing stone,
 (Thy giant limbs to night and chaos hurl'd)
 Still sit as on the fragment of a world ;
 Surviving all, majestic and alone ?
 What tho' the Spirits of the North, that swept
 Rome from the earth, when in her pomp she slept,
 Smote thee with fury, and thy headless trunk
 Deep in the dust mid tower and temple sunk ;
 Soon to subdue mankind 'twas thine to rise,
 Still, still unquell'd thy glorious energies !

Aspiring minds, with thee conversing, caught *

Bright revelations of the Good they sought ;

By thee that long-lost spell † in secret given,

To draw down Gods, and lift the soul to Heav'n !

* In the gardens of the Vatican, where it was placed by Julius II, it was long the favourite study of those great men, to whom we owe the revival of the arts, Michael Angelo, Raphael, and the Caracci.

† Once in the possession of Praxiteles, if we may believe an antient epigram on the Gnidian Venus.

Analecta Vet. Poetarum, III. 200.





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AH! little thought she, when, with wild delight,
By many a torrent's shining track she flew,
When mountain-glens and caverns full of night
O'er her young mind divine enchantment threw,

That in her veins a secret horror slept,
That her light footsteps should be heard no more,
That she should die—nor watch'd, alas, nor wept
By thee, unconscious of the pangs she bore.

Yet round her couch indulgent Fancy drew
The kindred forms her closing eye requir'd.
There didst thou stand—there, with the smile she knew.
She mov'd her lips to bless thee, and expir'd.

❧ On the death of her sister.

And now to thee she comes; still, still the same,
 As in the hours gone unregarded by!
 To thee, how chang'd, comes as she ever came;
 Health on her cheek, and pleasure in her eye!

Nor less, less oft, as on that day, appears,
 When lingering, as prophetic of the truth,
 By the way-side she shed her parting tears—
 For ever lovely in the light of Youth!



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WRITTEN IN A SICK CHAMBER.

THERE, in that bed so closely curtain'd round,
Worn to a shade, and wan with slow decay,
A father sleeps ! Oh hush'd be every sound !
Soft may we breathe the midnight hours away !

He stirs—yet still he sleeps. May heavenly dreams
Long o'er his smooth and settled pillow rise ;
Till thro' the shutter'd pane the morning streams,
And on the hearth the glimmering rush-light dies.

* * * * *



TO A FRIEND

ON HIS

MARRIAGE.

ON thee, blest youth, a father's hand confers
The maid thy earliest, fondest wishes knew.
Each soft enchantment of the soul is hers ;
Thine be the joys to firm attachment due.

As on she moves with hesitating grace,
She wins assurance from his soothing voice ;
And, with a look the pencil could not trace,
Smiles thro' her blushes, and confirms the choice.

Spare the fine tremors of her feeling frame !
To thee she turns — forgive a virgin's fears !
To thee she turns with surest, tenderest claim ;
Weakness that charms, reluctance that endears !

At each response the sacred rite requires,
From her full bosom bursts the unbidden sigh.
A strange mysterious awe the scene inspires ;
And on her lips the trembling accents die.

O'er her fair face what wild emotions play !
 What lights and shades in sweet confusion blend !
 Soon shall they fly, glad harbingers of day,
 And settled sunshine on her soul descend !

Ah soon, thine own confest, ecstatic thought !
 That hand shall strew thy summer-path with flowers ;
 And those blue eyes, with mildest lustre fraught,
 Gild the calm current of domestic hours !



* Ther
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THE ALPS

AT DAY-BREAK.

THE sun-beams streak the azure skies,
 And line with light the mountain's brow:
 With hounds and horns the hunters rise,
 And chase the roebuck thro' the snow.

From rock to rock, with giant-bound,
 High on their iron poles they pass;
 Mute, lest the air, convuls'd by sound,
 Rend from above a frozen mass.*

* There are passes in the Alps, where the guides tell you to move on with speed, and say nothing, lest the agitation of the air should loosen the snows above. GRAY'S MEM. SECT. v. lett. 4.

The goats wind slow their wonted way,
 Up craggy steeps and ridges rude ;
 Mark'd by the wild wolf for his prey,
 From desert cave or hanging wood.

And while the torrent thunders loud,
 And as the echoing cliffs reply,
 The huts peep o'er the morning-cloud,
 Perch'd, like an eagle's nest, on high.



IMITATION OF AN ITALIAN SONNET.*

Love, under Friendship's vesture white,
Laughs, his little limbs concealing ;
And oft in sport, and oft in spite,
Like Pity meets the dazzled sight,
Smiles thro' his tears revealing.

But now as Rage the God appears !
He frowns, and tempests shake his frame !—
Frowning, or smiling, or in tears,
'Tis Love ; and Love is still the same.

* See Gray's Mem. sect. II. lettr. 30.

ON A GIRL ASLEEP.

SLEEP on, and dream of Heav'n awhile.
Tho' shut so close thy laughing eyes,
Thy rosy lips still seem to smile,
And move, and breathe delicious sighs!—

Ah, now soft blushes tinge her cheeks,
And mantle o'er her neck of snow.
Ah, now she murmurs, now she speaks
What most I wish—and fear to know.

She starts, she trembles, and she weeps!
Her fair hands folded on her breast.
—And now, how like a saint she sleeps!
A seraph in the realms of rest!

Sleep on secure ! Above controul,
Thy thoughts belong to Heav'n and thee !
And may the secret of thy soul
Repose within its sanctuary !



TO THE
YOUNGEST DAUGHTER
OF
LADY **.

AH! why with tell-tale tongue reveal *
What most her blushes would conceal?
Why lift that modest veil to trace
The seraph-sweetness of her face?
Some fairer, better sport prefer;
And feel for us, if not for her.
For this presumption, soon or late,
Know thine shall be a kindred fate.

* Alluding to some verses which she had written
on an elder sister.

Another shall in vengeance rise —
Sing Harriet's cheeks, and Harriet's eyes ;
And, echoing back her wood-notes wild,
—Trace all the mother in the child !

A CHARACTER.

As thro' the hedge-row shade the violet steals,
And the sweet air its modest leaf reveals ;
Her softer charms, but by their influence known,
Surprise all hearts, and mould them to her own.

AN EPITAPH*

ON A ROBIN REDBREAST.

TREAD lightly here, for here, 'tis said,
 When piping winds are hush'd aound,
 A small note wakes from underground,
 Where now his tiny bones are laid.
 No more in lone and leafless groves,
 With ruffled wing and faded breast,
 His friendless, homeless spirit roves;
 —Gone to the world where birds are blest!
 Where never cat glides o'er the green,
 Or school-boy's giant form is seen;
 But Love, and Joy, and smiling Spring
 Inspire their little souls to sing!

* Inscribed on an urn in the flower-garden at Hafod.



A WISH.

MINE be a cot beside the hill,
A bee-hive's hum shall sooth my ear ;
A willowy brook, that turns a mill,
With many a fall shall linger near.

The swallow, oft, beneath my thatch,
 Shall twitter from her clay-built nest ;
 Oft shall the pilgrim lift the latch,
 And share my meal, a welcome guest.

Around my ivy'd porch shall spring
 Each fragrant flower that drinks the dew ;
 And Lucy, at her wheel, shall sing,
 In russet gown and apron blue.

The village-church, among the trees,
 Where first our marriage-vows were giv'n,
 With merry peals shall swell the breeze,
 And point with taper spire to heav'n.

AN

ITALIAN SONG.

DEAR is my little native vale,
The ring-dove builds and murmurs there;
Close by my cot she tells her tale
To every passing villager.
The squirrel leaps from tree to tree,
And shells his nuts at liberty.

In orange-groves and myrtle-bowers,
That breathe a gale of fragrance round,
I charm the fairy-footed hours
With my lov'd lute's romantic sound;

Or crowns of living laurel weave,
For those that win the race at eve.

The shepherd's horn at break of day,
The ballet danc'd in twilight glade,
The canzonet and roundelay
Sung in the silent green-wood shade ;
These simple joys, that never fail,
Shall bind me to my native vale.

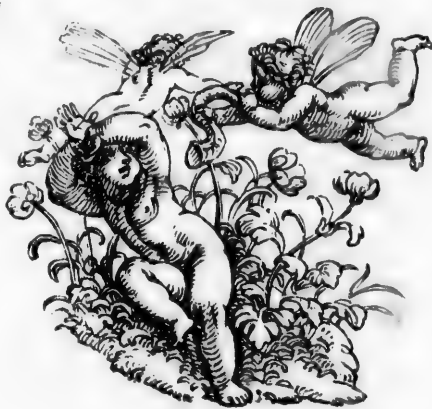


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TO THE GNAT.

WHEN by the green-wood side, at summer eve,
 Poetic visions charm my closing eye;
 And fairy-scenes, that Fancy loves to weave,
 Shift to wild notes of sweetest Minstrelsy;
 'Tis thine to range in busy quest of prey,
 Thy feathery antlers quivering with delight,
 Brush from my lids the hues of heav'n away,
 And all is Solitude, and all is Night!
 —Ah now thy barbed shaft, relentless fly,
 Unsheaths its terrors in the sultry air!
 No guardian sylph, in golden panoply,
 Lifts the broad shield, and points the glittering spear.

Now near and nearer rush thy whirring wings,
 Thy dragon-scales still wet with human gore.
 Hark, thy shrill horn its fearful larum flings !
 — I wake in horror, and ‘ dare sleep no more !’



CAGED

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CAPTIVITY.

CAGED in old woods, whose reverend echoes wake
When the horn screams along the distant lake,
Her little heart oft flutters to be free,
Oft sighs to turn the unrelenting key.
In vain ! the nurse that rusted relic wears,
Nor mov'd by gold—nor to be mov'd by tears ;
And terraced walls their black reflection throw
On the green-mantled moat that sleeps below.





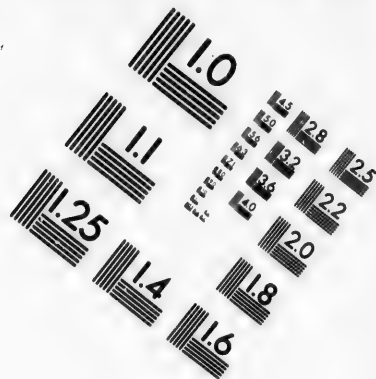
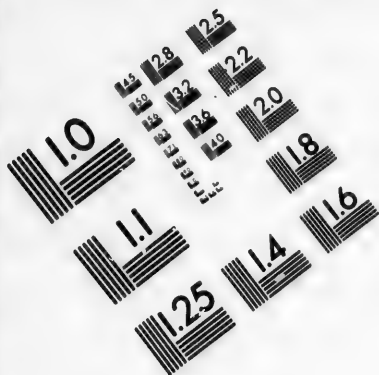
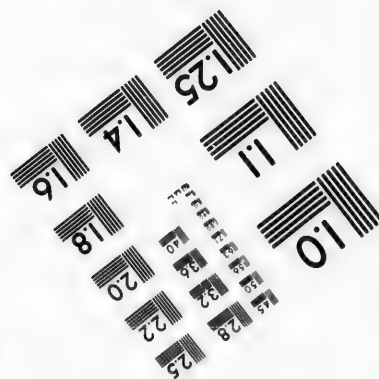
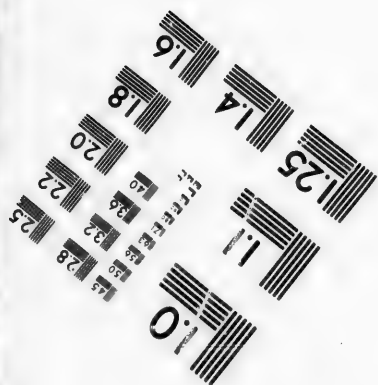
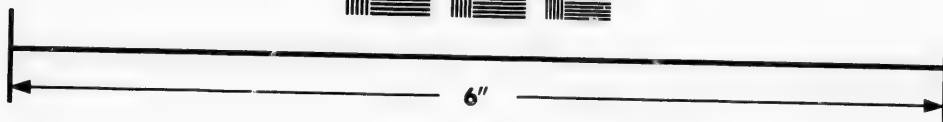
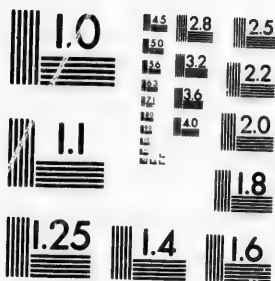


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A FAREWELL.

ONCE more, enchanting girl, adieu!

I must be gone while yet I may.

Oft shall I weep to think of you ;

But here I will not, cannot stay.

The sweet expression of that face,

For ever changing, yet the same,

Ah no, I dare not turn to trace.

It melts my soul, it fires my frame !

Yet give me, give me, ere I go,

One little lock of those so blest,

That lend your cheek a warmer glow,

And on your white neck love to rest.

—Say, when to kindle soft delight,
That hand has chanc'd with mine to meet,
How could its thrilling touch excite
A sigh so short, and yet so sweet?

O say—but no, it must not be.

Adieu, enchanting girl, adieu!

—Yet still, methinks, you frown on me;

Or never could I fly from you.



TO

THE BUTTERFLY.

CHILD of the sun! pursue thy rapturous flight,
Mingling with her thou lov'st in fields of light;
And, where the flowers of paradise unfold,
Quaff fragrant nectar from their cups of gold.
There shall thy wings, rich as an evening-sky,
Expand and shut with silent ecstasy!
—Yet wert thou once a worm, a thing that crept
On the bare earth, then wrought a tomb and slept!
And such is man; soon from his cell of clay
To burst a seraph in the blaze of day!

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V E R S E S

WRITTEN IN

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.*

W H O E' E R thou art, approach, and, with a sigh,
 Mark where the small remains of Greatness lie.†
 There sleeps the dust of Him for ever gone ;
 How near the Scene where once his Glory shone !
 And, tho' no more ascends the voice of Prayer,
 Tho' the last footsteps cease to linger there,
 Still, like an awful Dream that comes again,
 Alas, at best, as transient and as vain,

* After the Funeral of the Right Hon. CHARLES JAMES FOX on Friday, October 10, 1806.

† Venez voir le peu qui nous reste de tant de grandeur, &c.
 Bossuet. Oraison funébre de Louis de Bourbon.

Still do I see (while thro' the vaults of night
 The funeral-song once more proclaims the rite)
 The moving Pomp along the shadowy Isle,
 That, like a Darkness, fill'd the solemn Pile;
 The illustrious line, that in long order led,
 Of those that lov'd Him living, mourn'd Him dead;
 Of those, the Few, that for their Country stood
 Round Him who dar'd be singularly good;
 All, of all ranks, that claim'd Him for their own;
 And nothing wanting—but Himself alone! *

Oh say, of Him now rests there but a name;
 Wont, as He was, to breathe ethereal flame?
 Friend of the Absent! Guardian of the Dead! †
 Who but would here their sacred sorrows shed?

* Et rien enfin ne manque dans tous ces honneurs, que celui à qui on les rend.—Ibid.

† Alluding particularly to his speech on moving a new writ for the borough of Tavistock, March 16, 1802.

(Such as He shed on NELSON'S closing grave;
 How soon to claim the sympathy He gave!)
 In Him, resentful of another's wrong,
 The dumb were eloquent, the feeble strong.
 Truth from his lips a charm celestial drew—
 Ah, who so mighty and so gentle too?

What tho' with War the madding Nations rung,
 'Peace,' when He spoke, dwelt ever on his tongue!
 Amidst the frowns of Power, the tricks of State,
 Fearless, resolv'd, and negligently great!
 In vain malignant vapours gather'd round;
 He walk'd, erect, on consecrated ground.
 The clouds, that rise to quench the Orb of day,
 Reflect its splendour, and dissolve away!

When in retreat He laid his thunder by,
 For letter'd ease and calm Philosophy,

Blest were his hours within the silent grove,
 Where still his god-like Spirit deigns to rove;
 Blest by the orphan's smile, the widow's prayer,
 For many a deed, long done in secret there.
 There shone his lamp on Homer's hallow'd page.
 There, listening, sate the hero and the sage;
 And they, by virtue and by blood allied,
 Whom most He lov'd, and in whose arms He died.
 Friend of all Human-kind ! not here alone
 (The voice, that speaks, was not to Thee unknown)
 Wilt Thou be miss'd.—O'er every land and sea
 Long, long shall England be rever'd in Thee !
 And, when the Storm is hush'd—in distant years—
 Foes on thy grave shall meet, and mingle tears !

FRAGMENTS
OF
A POEM,
CALLED THE
VOYAGE OF COLUMBUS.

CHI SE' TU, CHE VIENI—?
DA ME STESSO NON VEGNO.
DANTE.



I have seen the day,
That I have worn a visor, and could tell
A tale —————

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PREFACE.

THE following Poem (or, to speak more properly, what remains of it*) has here and there a lyrical turn of thought and expression. It is sudden in its transitions, and full of historical allusions; leaving much to be imagined by the reader.

The subject is a voyage the most memorable in the annals of mankind. Columbus was a person of extraordinary virtue and piety, acting under the sense of a divine impulse; and his achievement the discovery

* The Original in the Castilian language, if we may rely on the Inscription that follows, was found among other MSS. in an old religious house near Palos, situated on an island formed by the river Tinto, and dedicated to our Lady of Rábida. It bears no date; but, if we may judge from the style and manner, is much more modern than it professes to be.

of a New World, the inhabitants of which were shut out from the light of Revelation, and given up, as they believed, to the dominion of malignant spirits.

Many of the incidents will now be thought extravagant; yet they were once perhaps received with something more than indulgence. It was an age of miracles; and who can say that among the venerable legends in the library of the Escorial, or the more authentic records which fill the great chamber in the *Archivo* of Simancas, and which relate entirely to the deep tragedy of America, there are no volumes that mention the marvellous things here described? Indeed the story, as already told throughout

Europe, admits of no heightening. Such was the religious enthusiasm of the early writers, that the Author had only to transfuse it into his verse; and he appears to have done little more; though some of the circumstances, which he alludes to as well-known, have long ceased to be so. By using the language of that day, he has called up Columbus 'in his habit as he lived;' and the authorities, such as exist, are carefully given by the translator.



INSCRIBED ON THE ORIGINAL
MANUSCRIPT.

UNCLASP me, Stranger; and unfold,
With trembling care, my leaves of gold
Rich in gothic portraiture—
If yet, alas, a leaf endure.

In RABIDA's monastic fane
I cannot ask, and ask in vain.
The language of CASTILE I speak;
Mid many an Arab, many a Greek,
Old in the days of CHARLEMAIN;
When minstrel-music wander'd round,
And Science, waking, bless'd the sound.
No earthly thought has here a place;
The cowl let down on every face.

Yet here, in consecrated dust,
 Here would I sleep, if sleep I must.
 From GENOA when COLUMBUS came,
 (At once her glory and her shame)
 'Twas here he caught the holy flame.
 'Twas here the generous vow he made;
 His banners on the altar laid.—*

One hallow'd morn, methought, I felt
 As if a soul within me dwelt!
 But who arose and gave to me
 The sacred trust I keep for thee,
 And in his cell at even-tide
 Knelt before the cross and died—
 Inquire not now. His name no more
 Glimmers on the chancel-floor,

* See Page 211. Note.

Near the lights that ever shine
Before ST. MARY'S blessed shrine.

To me one little hour devote,
And lay thy staff and scrip beside thee;
Read in the temper that he wrote,
And may his gentle spirit guide thee!
My leaves forsake me, one by one;
The book-worm thro' and thro' has gone.
Oh haste—unclasp me, and unfold;
The tale within was never told!



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THE ARGUMENT.

Columbus, having wandered from kingdom to kingdom, at length obtains three ships and sets sail on the Atlantic. The compass alters from its antient direction; the wind becomes constant and unremitting; night and day he advances, till he is suddenly stopped in his course by a mass of vegetation, extending as far as the eye can reach, and assuming the appearance of a country overwhelmed by the sea. Alarm and despondence on board. He resigns himself to the care of Heaven, and proceeds on his voyage; while columns of water move along in his path before him.

Meanwhile the deities of America assemble in council; and one of the Zemi, the gods of the islanders, announces his approach. "In vain," says he, "have we guarded the Atlantic for ages. A mortal has baffled our power; nor will our votaries arm against him. Yours are a sterner race. Hence; and, while we have recourse to stratagem,

do you array the nations round your altars, and prepare for an exterminating war." They disperse while he is yet speaking; and, in the shape of a condor, he directs his flight to the fleet. His journey described. He arrives there. A panic. A mutiny. Columbus restores order; continues on his voyage; and lands in a New World. Ceremonies of the first interview. Rites of hospitality. The ghost of Cazziva.

Two months pass away, and an Angel, appearing in a dream to Columbus, thus addresses him: "Return to Europe; though your Adversaries, such is the will of Heaven, shall let loose the hurricane against you. A little while shall they triumph; insinuating themselves into the hearts of your followers, and making the World, which you came to bless, a scene of blood and slaughter. Yet is there cause for rejoicing. Your work is done. The cross of Christ is planted here; and, in due time, all things shall be made perfect!"

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CANTO I.

Night—Columbus on the Atlantic—the variation of the
compass, &c.

SAY who first pass'd the portals of the West,
And the great Secret of the Deep possess'd;
Who first the standard of his Faith unfurl'd
On the dread confines of an unknown World;
Sung ere his coming *—and by Heav'n design'd
To lift the veil that cover'd half mankind!

* See p. 255. Note I.

* * * * *

'Twas night.† The Moon, o'er the wide wave, disclos'd
 Her awful face; and Nature's self repos'd;
 When, slowly rising in the azure sky,
 Three white sails shone—but to no mortal eye,
 Entering a boundless sea. In slumber cast,
 The very ship-boy, on the dizzy mast,
 Half breath'd his orisons! Alone unchang'd,
 Calmly, beneath, the great Commander rang'd,
 Thoughtful not sad. "Thy will be done!" he cried.‡—
 Then, by his lamp, to that mysterious Guide,
 On whose still counsels all his hopes relied,

† The Poem opens on Friday, the 14th of September, 1492; and it is remarkable that the Writer, who represents himself as having sailed with Columbus, never deviates from the track of the old Chroniclers, but to discover from behind the scene, as it were, some of that preternatural agency to which they refer so continually.

‡ 'It has pleased our Lord to grant me faith and assurance for this enterprize—He has opened my understanding, and made me most willing to go.' See his Life by his son, Ferd. Columbus, entitled, *Hist. del Almirante Don Christobal. Colon. c. 4 & 37.*

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That Oracle to man in mercy giv'n,
 Whose voice is truth, whose wisdom is from heav'n,
 He turn'd; but what strange thoughts perplex'd his soul,
 When, lo, no more attracted to the Pole,
 The Compass, faithless as the circling vane,
 Flutter'd and fix'd, flutter'd and fix'd again!—
 At length, as by some unseen Hand imprest,
 It sought, with trembling energy, the West! *
 " Ah no!" he cried, and calm'd his anxious brow.
 " Ill, nor the signs of ill, 'tis thine to show.
 " Thine but to lead me where I wish'd to go!"

COLUMBUS err'd not. † In that awful hour,
 Sent forth to save, and girt with God-like power,

* Herrera, dec. I. lib. i. c. 9.

† When these regions were to be illuminated, says Acosta, *cum divino consilio decretum esset, prospectum etiam divinitus est, ut tam longi itineris dux certus hominibus præberetur. De Natura Novi Orbis.*

And glorious as the regent of the sun,*
 An Angel came! He spoke, and it was done!
 He spoke, and, at his call, a mighty Wind,†
 Not like the fitful blast, with fury blind,
 But deep, majestic, in its destin'd course,
 Rush'd with unerring, unrelenting force,
 From the bright East. Tides duly ebb'd and flow'd;
 Stars rose and set; and new horizons glow'd;
 Yet still it blew! As with primeval sway,
 Still did its ample spirit, night and day,
 Move on the waters!—All, resign'd to Fate,
 Folded their arms and sat; and seem'd to wait

* Rev. xix. 17.

† The more Christian opinion is, that God, at the length, with eyes of compassion as it were looking downe from heaven, intended even then to rayse those *windes of mercy*, whereby this newe worlde receyved the hope of salvation.—Certaine Preambles to the Decades of the Ocean.

Some sudden change; and sought, in chill suspense,
New spheres of being, and new modes of sense;
As men departing, tho' not doom'd to die,
And midway on their passage to eternity.



CANTO II.

The Voyage continued.

“ **W**HAT vast foundations in the Abyss are there,
“ As of a former world? * Is it not where
“ ATLANTIC kings their barbarous pomp display’d; †
“ Sunk into darkness with the realms they sway’d,
“ When towers and temples, thro’ the closing wave,
“ A glimmering ray of antient splendour gave—
“ And we shall rest with them. Arise, behold,
“ — — — — —
“ We stop to stir no more . . . nor will the tale be told.”

* In like manner the companions of Ulysses utter their thoughts without reserve. Od. X.

† See Plato’s *Timæus*.

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The pilot smote his breast; the watch-man cried
 "Land!" and his voice in faltering accents died. †
 At once the fury of the prow was quell'd;
 And (whence or why from many an age withheld) ‡
 Shrieks, not of men, were mingling in the blast;
 And armed shapes of god-like stature pass'd!

* * * * *

Onward He led; and lo, the charm accurst
 Fled whence it came, and the broad barrier burst!
 A vain illusion! (such as mocks the eyes
 Of fearful men, when mountains round them rise

† Historians are not silent on the subject. The sailors, according to Herrera, I. i. 9 & 10, saw the signs of an inundated country (tierras anegadas); and it was the general expectation that they should end their lives there, as others had done in the frozen sea, 'where St. Amaro suffers no ship to stir backwards or forwards.' F. Columbus, c. 19.

‡ The Author seems to have anticipated his long slumber in the library of the Fathers.

From less than nothing*) nothing now beheld,

But scatter'd sedge—repelling, and repell'd!

Already borne beyond the range of thought,

With Light divine, with Truth immortal fraught,

From world to world their sacred course they keep,†

Swift as the winds along the waters sweep,

Mid the mute nations of the purple deep.

—And now the sound of harpy-wings they hear;

Now less and less, as vanishing in fear!

And, see, the heav'ns bow down, the waters rise,

And, rising, shoot in columns to the skies, ‡

* Isaiah xl. 17.

† As St. Christopher carried Christ over the deep waters, so Columbus went over safe, himself and his company—Ibid. c. 1.

‡ Water-spouts. See Edwards's Hist. of the West Indies. I. 12. Note.

That stand—and still, when they proceed, retire,
 As in the Desert burn'd the sacred fire; *
 Moving in silent majesty, till Night
 Descends, and shuts the vision from their sight.†

* Exod. xiii. 21.

† This Canto seems to have suffered more than the rest. We wander, as it were, 'ubi—rebus nox abstulit atra colorem.'



CANTO III.

An Assembly of Evil Spirits.

THO' chang'd my cloth of gold for amice grey—*
In my spring-time, when every month was May,
With hawk and hound I cours'd away the hour,
Or sung my roundelay in lady's bower.
And tho' my world be now a narrow cell,
(Renounc'd for ever all I lov'd so well)
Tho' now my head be bald, my feet be bare,
And scarce my knees sustain my book of prayer,
Oh I was there, one of that gallant crew,
And saw—and wonder'd whence his Power He drew;
Nor then of his great Adversaries knew,
Then uninstructed.—But my sand is run,
And the Night coming - - - and my Task not done!

* See the Inscription, p. 191. Many of the first discoverers, if we may believe B. Diaz, and other contemporary writers, ended their days in a hermitage, or a cloister.

'Twas in the deep, immeasurable cave
 Of **ANDES**, echoing to the Southern wave,
 Mid pillars of Basalt, the work of fire,
 That, giant-like, to upper day aspire,
 'Twas there that now, as wont in heav'n to shine,
 Forms of angelic mould, and grace divine,
 Assembled. All, exil'd the realms of rest,
 In vain the sadness of their souls suppress'd;
 Yet of their glory many a scatter'd ray
 Shot thro' the gathering shadows of decay.

These in dim shrines and barbarous symbols * reign,
 Where **PLATA** and **MARAGNON** meet the Main.
 Those the wild hunter worships as he roves,
 In the green shade of **CHILI**'s fragrant groves;
 Or warrior-tribes with rites of blood implore,
 Whose night-fires gleam along the sullen shore

* Ils ne laissent pas d'en être les esclaves, & de les honorer plus
 que le grand Esprit, qui de sa nature est bon. Lafitau.

Of HURON or ONTARIO, inland seas,
 What time the song of death is in the breeze!
 'Twas now in dismal pomp and order due,
 While the vast concave flash'd with lightnings blue,
 On shining pavements of metallic ore,
 That many an age the fusing sulphur bore,
 They held high council. All was silence round,
 When, with a voice most sweet yet most profound,
 A sovereign Spirit burst the gates of night,
 And from his wings of gold shook drops of liquid light!
 MERION, whose numerous host, their charge to keep,
 Like shadows mov'd athwart the gloomy deep!
 Chief of the ZEMI, whom the Isles obey'd,
 By Ocean sever'd from a world of shade.*

I.

"Prepare, again prepare,"

Thus o'er the soul the thrilling accents came,

* La plupart de ces îles ne sont en effet que des pointes de montagnes :
 et la mer, qui est au-delà, est une vraie mer Méditerranée. Buffon.

" Thrones to resign for lakes of living flame,

" And triumph for despair.

" He, on whose call afflicting thunders wait,

" Has will'd it; and his will is fate!

" In vain the legions, emulous to save,

" Hung in the tempest o'er the troubled main; *

" Turn'd each presumptuous prow that broke the wave,

" And dash'd it on its shores again.

" All is fulfill'd! Behold, in dread array,

" What mighty banners stream in the bright track of day!

* * * * *

He spoke; and all was silence, all was night!

Each had already wing'd his formidable flight.

* The dominion of a bad angel over an unknown sea, *infestandole con sus torbellinos y tempestades*, and his flight before a Christian hero, are described in glowing language by Ovalle. Hist. de Chile. IV. 8.



CANTO IV.

The Voyage continued.

* * * * *

STILL, as beyond this mortal life impell'd
By some mysterious energy, He held
His everlasting course. Still self-possess'd,
High on the deck He stood, disdaining rest ;
Fathom'd, with searching hand, the dark profound,
And scatter'd hope and glad assurance round.

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At day-break might the Caravels† be seen,
 Chasing their shadows o'er the blue serene;
 Their burnish'd prows lash'd by the sparkling tide,
 Their green-cross standards‡ waving far and wide.
 And now once more to better thoughts inclin'd,
 The sea-man, mounting, clamour'd in the wind.
 The soldier told his tales of love and war;
 The courtier sung—sung to his gay guitar.
 Round at Primero sate a whisker'd band;
 So Fortune smil'd, careless of sea or land.§

* * * * *

† Light vessels, formerly used by the Spaniards and Portuguese.

‡ F. Columbus, c. 23.

§ Among those, who went with Columbus, were many adventurers, and gentlemen of the court. Primero was the game then in fashion. See Vega, p. 2. lib. iii. c. 9.

Yet who but He undaunted could explore
 A world of waves—a sea without a shore,
 Trackless and vast and wild as that reveal'd
 When round the Ark the birds of tempest wheel'd;
 When all was still in the destroying hour—
 No sign of man! no vestige of his power!

* * * * *

Day, when it came, came only with its light.
 Tho' long invok'd, 'twas sadder than the night!
 Look where He would, for ever as He turn'd,
 He met the eye of one that inly mourn'd.

* * * * *

Then sunk his generous spirit, and He wept.
 The friend, the father rose; the hero slept.
 PALOS, thy port, with many a pang resign'd,
 Fill'd with its busy scenes his lonely mind;

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The solemn march, the vows in concert giv'n,†
 The bended knees and lifted hands to heav'n,
 The incens'd rites, and choral harmonies,
 The Guardian's blessings mingling with his sighs;
 While his dear boys—ah, on his neck they hung,
 And long at parting to his garments clung.

* * * * *

Oft in the silent night-watch doubt and fear
 Broke in uncertain murmurs on his ear.
 Oft the stern Catalan, at noon of day,
 Mutter'd dark threats, and linger'd to obey;

† His public procession to the Convent of Rábida on the day before he set sail. It was there that his sons had received their education; and he himself appears to have passed some time there, the venerable Guardian, Juan Perez de Marchena, being his zealous and affectionate friend.—The ceremonies of his departure and return are represented in many of the fresco-paintings in the palaces of Genoa.

Tho' that brave Youth—he, whom his courser bore
 Right thro' the midst, when, fetlock deep in gore,
 The great GONZALO† battled with the Moor,
 (What time the ALHAMBRA shook—soon to unfold
 Its sacred courts, and fountains yet untold,
 Its holy texts and arabesques of gold)
 Tho' ROLDAN,‡ sleep and death to him alike,
 Grasp'd his good sword and half unsheath'd to strike.

* * * * *

“Come on,” he cried, and threw his glove in scorn,
 “Not this your wonted pledge, the brimming horn.

† Gonzalo Fernandez, already known by the name of The great Captain. Granada surrendered on the 2d of January, 1492. Columbus set sail on the 3d of August following.

‡ Probably a soldier of fortune. There were more than one of the name on board.

“ Valiant in peace! Adventurous at home!

“ Oh, had ye vow’d with pilgrim-staff to roam,

“ Or with banditti sought the sheltering wood,

“ Where mouldering crosses mark the scene of blood!—”

He said, he drew; then, at his Master’s frown,

Sullenly sheath’d, plunging the weapon down.





CANTO V.

The flight of an Angel of Darkness.

WAR and the Great in War let others sing,
Havoc and spoil, and tears and triumphing;
The morning-march that flashes to the sun,
The feast of vultures when the day is done;
And the strange tale of many slain for one!
I sing a Man, amidst his sufferings here,
Who watch'd and serv'd in humbleness and fear;
Gentle to others, to himself severe.

* * * * *

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Still unsubdued by Danger's varying form,
 Still, as unconscious of the coming storm,
 He look'd elate! His beard, his mien sublime,
 Shadow'd by Age—by Age before the time,†
 From many a sorrow borne in many a clime,
 Mov'd every heart. And now in opener skies
 Stars yet unnam'd of purer radiance rise!
 Stars, milder suns, that love a shade to cast,
 And on the bright wave fling the trembling mast.‡

* * * * *

'Twas the mid hour, when He, whose accents dread
 Still wander'd thro' the regions of the dead,
 (MERION, commission'd with his host to sweep
 From age to age the melancholy deep)
 To elude the seraph-guard that watch'd for man,
 And mar, as erst, the Eternal's perfect plan,
 † F. Col. c. 3. ‡ Splendour of the nights in a tropical climate.

Rose like the Condor, and, at towering height,
 In pomp of plumage sail'd, deepening the shades of night.
 Roc of the West! to him all empire giv'n! *
 Who bears Axalhua's dragon-folds to heav'n; †
 His flight a whirlwind, and, when heard afar,
 Like thunder, or the distant din of war!

Mountains and seas fled backward as he pass'd
 O'er the great globe, by not a cloud o'ercast
 From the ANTARCTICK, from the Land of Fire ‡
 To where ALASKA'S § wintry wilds retire;

* Le Condor est le même oiseau que le Roc des Orientaux. Buffon.
 'By the Peruvians,' says Vega, 'he was antiently worshipped; and
 there were those who claimed their descent from him.' In these
 degenerate days he still ranks above the Eagle.

† As the Roc of the East is said to carry off the Elephant. See
 Marco Polo.—Axalhua, or the Emperor, is the name in the Mexican
 language for the great serpent of America.

‡ Tierra del Fuego.

§ Northern extremity of the New World. See Cook's last Voyage.

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From mines* of gold, and giant-sons of earth,
 To grotts of ice, and tribes of pigmy birth
 Who freeze alive, nor, dead, in dust repose,
 High-hung in forests to the casing snows.†

Now mid angelic multitudes he flies,
 That hourly come with blessings from the skies;
 Wings the blue element, and, borne sublime,
 Eyes the set sun, gilding each distant clime;
 Then, like a meteor, shooting to the main,
 Melts into pure intelligence again.

* Mines of Chili; which extend, says Ovalle, to the Strait of Magellan. I. 4.

† A custom not peculiar to the Western Hemisphere. The Tunguses of Siberia hang their dead on trees; 'parceque la terre ne se laisse point ouvrir.' *Recherches Philos. sur les Americ.* I. 140.

CANTO VI.

A mutiny excited.

* * * * *

WHAT tho' Despondence reign'd, and wild Affright;
Stretch'd in the midst, and, thro' that dismal night,
By his white plume reveal'd and buskins white,†
Slept ROLDAN. When he clos'd his gay career,
Hope fled for ever, and with Hope fled Fear.
Blest with each gift indulgent Fortune sends,
Birth and its rights, wealth and its train of friends,
Star-like he shone! Now beggar'd, and alone,
Danger he woo'd, and claim'd her for his own.

† It is said that Pizarro used to dress in this fashion; after Gonzalo, whom he had served under in Italy.

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O'er him a Vampire* his dark wings display'd.
 'Twas MERION's self, covering with dreadful shade.†
 He came, and, couch'd on ROLDAN's ample breast,
 Each secret pore of breathing life possess'd;

- - - - -

Then, inly gliding like a subtle flame,
 Subdued the man, and from his thrilling frame
 Sent forth the voice! "We live, we breathe no more!
 "The fatal wind blows on the dreary shore!
 "On yonder cliffs, beckoning their fellow-prey,
 "The spectres stalk, and murmur at delay!‡
 "—Yet if thou canst (not for myself I plead,
 "Mine but to follow where 'tis thine to lead)

* A species of bat in S. America; which refreshes by the gentle agitation of its wings, while it sucks the blood of the sleeper, turning his sleep into death. Ulloa.

†

Now one,

Now other, as their shape serv'd best his end.

Undoubtedly, says Herrera, the Infernal Spirit assumed various shapes in that region of the world.

‡ Euripides in *Alcest.* v. 255.

" Oh turn and save! To thee, with streaming eyes,
 " To thee each widow kneels, each orphan cries!
 " Who now, condemn'd the lingering hours to tell,
 " Think and but think of those they lov'd so well!"

All melt in tears! but what can tears avail?
 These climb the mast, and shift the swelling sail.
 These snatch the helm, and, by blind fury led,
 Crowd round their Chief, and curse his honour'd head.
 Silent with grief, awhile within his cloak
 His face he muffled—then the Hero spoke.
 " Generous and brave! when God himself is here,
 " Why shake at shadows in your mid career?
 " He can suspend the laws himself design'd,
 " He walks the waters, and the winged wind;*
 " Himself your guide! and yours the high behest,
 " To lift your voice, and bid a world be blest!

* Ps. civ. 3.

" And can you shrink?*" to you, to you consign'd

" The glorious privilege to serve mankind!

" Oh had I perish'd, when my failing frame†

" Clung to the shatter'd oar mid wrecks of flame!

" —Was it for this I linger'd life away,

" The scorn of Folly,‡ and of Fraud the prey;

" Bow'd down my mind, the gift His bounty gave,

" At courts a suitor, and to slaves a slave?

" —Yet in His name whom only we should fear,

" ('Tis all, all I shall ask, or you shall hear)

" Grant but three days"—He spoke not uninspir'd; §

And each in silence to his watch retir'd.

* The same language had been addressed to Isabella. F. Col. c. 15.

† His miraculous escape, in early life, during a sea-fight off the coast of Portugal. Ibid. c. 5.

‡ " Lorsqu'il avait promis un nouvel hémisphère," says Voltaire, " on lui avait soutenu que cet hémisphère ne pouvait exister; et quand il l'eut découvert, on prétendit qu'il avait été connu depuis long-temps."

§ He used to affirm that he stood in need of God's particular assistance; like Moses, when he led forth the people of Israel, who

At length among us came an unknown Voice!

“ Go, if ye will ; and, if ye can, rejoice.

“ Go, with unbidden guests the banquet share.

“ In his own shape shall Death receive you there.*

forbore to lay violent hands upon him, because of the miracles which God wrought by his means. ‘ So,’ said the Admiral, ‘ did it happen to me on that voyage.’ F. Columbus, c. 19.—‘ And so easily,’ says a Commentator, ‘ are the workings of the Evil one overcome by the power of God!’

* This denunciation, fulfilled as it appears to be in the tenth canto, may remind the reader of the Harpy’s in Virgil. *Æn.* III. v. 247.



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CANTO VII.

Land discovered.

TWICE in the zenith blaz'd the orb of light;
No shade, all sun, insufferably bright!
Then the long line† found rest—in coral groves
Silent and dark, where the sea-lion roves:—
And all on deck, kindling to life again,
Sent forth their anxious spirits o'er the main.

* * * * *

“ But whence, as wafted from Elysium, whence
“ These perfumes, strangers to the raptur'd sense?
“ These boughs of gold, and fruits of heav'nly hue,
“ Tinging with vermeil light the billows blue?

† The sounding-line.

" And say, oh say, (how blest the eye that spied,
 " The hand that snatch'd it sparkling in the tide)
 " Whose cunning carv'd this vegetable bowl,†
 " Symbol of social rites, and intercourse of soul?"

* * * * *

Such to their grateful ear the gush of springs,
 Who course the ostrich, as away she wings,
 Sons of the desert! who delight to dwell
 Mid kneeling camels round the sacred well;
 Who, ere the terrors of his pomp be past,
 Fall to the demon‡ in the redd'ning blast.

The sails were furl'd: with many a melting close,
 Solemn and slow the evening anthem rose,

† The drinking cups of the Islanders, if we may believe a contemporary of Columbus, were *ex ligno . . . lucido confecta, et arte mirâ laborata*. P. Martyr, dec. I. 5.

‡ The Simoom. See Bruce's Travels. VIII. 11.

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Rose to the Virgin.* 'Twas the hour of day,
 When setting suns o'er summer-seas display
 A path of glory, opening in the west
 To golden climes, and islands of the blest;
 And human voices, on the silent air,
 Went o'er the waves in songs of gladness there!

Chosen of Men! 'twas thine, at noon of night,†
 First from the prow to hail the glimmering light.‡
 "PEDRO! RODRIGO! § there, methought, it shone!
 "There—in the west! and now, alas, 'tis gone!—

* *Salve, regina.* Herrera. I. i. 12 —It was the usual service, and always sung with great solemnity. 'I remember, one evening,' says Oviedo, 'when the ship was in full sail, and all the men were on their knees, singing *Salve, regina,*' &c. *Relacion Sommaria.*—The hymn, *O Sanctissima*, is still to be heard after sunset along the shores of Sicily; and its effect may be better conceived than described. See Brydone. I. 330.

† On Thursday, the 11th of October, 1492.

‡ A light in the midst of darkness, signifying the spiritual light that he came to spread there. F. Col. c. 22. Herrera, I. i. 12.

§ Pedro Gutierrez, a Page of the King's Chamber. Rodrigo Sanchez of Segovia, Comptroller of the Fleet.

" 'Twas all a dream! we gaze and gaze in vain!

" —But mark and speak not, there it comes again!

" It moves!—what form unseen, what being there

" With torch-like lustre fires the murky air?

" His instincts, passions, say, how like our own?

" Oh! when will day reveal a world unknown?"



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CANTO VIII.

The New World.

LONG on the wave the morning mists repose,
Then rise—and, melting into light, disclose
Half-circling hills, whose everlasting woods
Sweep with their sable skirts the shadowy floods.

* * * * *

—Oh say, when all, to holy transport giv'n,
Embrac'd and wept as at the gates of Heav'n ;

When one and all, at once, repentant ran,
 And, on their faces, bless'd the wondrous Man;
 Say, was the Muse deceiv'd, or from the skies
 Burst on their ear seraphic harmonies?
 "Glory to God!" unnumber'd voices sung,
 "Glory to God!" the vales and mountains rung;
 Voices that hail'd Creation's primal morn,
 And to the shepherds sung a Saviour born.

Slowly to land the sacred cross we bore,*
 And, kneeling, kiss'd with pious lips the shore.
 But how the scene pourtray? Nymphs of romance,†
 Youths graceful as the Faun,‡ with rapturous glance,

* Signifying to the Infernal Powers (all' inferno todo) the will of the Most High, that they should renounce a world over which they had tyrannised for so many ages. *Ovale*, IV. 5.

† *Dryades formosissimas, aut nativas fontium nymphas, de quibus fabulatur antiquitas, se vidisse arbitrati sunt.* P Martyr, dec. i. lib. 5.

‡ An eminent Painter, when he first saw the Apollo of the Belvedere, was struck with its resemblance to an American warrior. West's discourse in the Royal Academy, 1794.

Spring from the glades, and down the green steeps run,
To greet their mighty guests, "The children of the Sun!"

Features so fair, in garments richly wrought,*
From citadels, with Heav'n's own thunder fraught,
Check'd their light footsteps—statue-like they stood,
As worshipp'd forms, the Genii of the Wood!

But see, the regal plumes, the couch of state!†
Still, where it moves, the wise in council wait!
See now borne forth the monstrous mask of gold,‡
And ebon chair‡ of many a serpent-fold;
These now exchange'd for gifts that thrice surpass
The wondrous ring, and lamp, and horse of brass.§

* Columbus landed in a rich dress.

† "The Cacique came down to the shore in a sort of palanquin—attended by his antient men.—The gifts, that he received from me, were afterwards carried before him. F. Columbus, c. 32.

‡ Ibid. c. 28, 34.

§ The ring of Gyges, the lamp of Aladdin, and the horse of the Tartar king.

What long-drawn tube transports the gazer home,*
 Kindling with stars at noon the ethereal dome?
 'Tis here: and here circles of solid light†
 Charm with another self the cheated sight;
 As man to man another self disclose,
 That now with terror starts, with triumph glows!

* For the effects of the telescope, and the mirror, on an uncultivated mind, see Wallis's *Voyage round the World*. c. 2 & 6.

† F. Col. c. 69.



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CANTO IX.

Cora—luxuriant vegetation—the Humming-bird—the Fountain
of Youth.

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THEN CORA came, the youngest of her race,
And in her hands she hid her lovely face;
Yet oft by stealth a timid glance she cast,
And now with playful step the Mirror pass'd,
Each bright reflection brighter than the last!
And oft behind it flew, and oft before;
The more she search'd, pleas'd and perplex'd the more!

And look'd and laugh'd, and blush'd with quick surprise;

Her lips all mirth, all ecstasy her eyes!

But soon the telescope attracts her view;

And lo, her lover in his light canoe

Rocking, at noon-tide, on the silent sea,

Before her lies! It cannot, cannot be.

Late as he left the shore, she linger'd there,

Till, less and less, he melted into air!—

Sigh after sigh steals from her gentle frame,

And say—that murmur—was it not his name?

She turns, and thinks; and, lost in wild amaze,

Gazes again, and could for ever gaze!

Nor can thy flute, ALONSO, now excite,

As in VALENCIA, when, with fond delight,

FRANCISCA, waking, to the lattice flew,

So soon to love and to be wretched too!

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—Yet who now comes uncall'd; and round and round,
 And near and nearer flutters to its sound;
 Then stirs not, breathes not—on enchanted ground?
 Who now lets fall the flowers she cull'd to wear
 When he, who promis'd, should at eve be there;
 And faintly smiles, and hangs her head aside
 The tear that glistens on her cheek to hide?
 Ah, who but CORA? —till inspir'd, possest,
 At once she springs, and clasps it to her breast!

* * * * *

Soon from the bay the mingling croud ascends,
 Kindred first met! by sacred instinct Friends!
 Thro' citron groves, and fields of yellow maize,†
 Thro' plantain-walks where not a sun-beam plays.

† *Ætas est illis aurea. Apertis vivunt hortis. P. Martyr. dec. l. 3.*

Here blue savannas fade into the sky.
 There forests frown in midnight majesty;
 Ceiba, and Indian fig, and plane sublime,
 Nature's first-born, and reverenc'd by Time!
 There sits the bird that speaks!* there, quivering, rise
 Wings that reflect the glow of evening skies!
 Half bird, half fly, the fairy king of flowers†
 Reigns there, and revels thro' the fragrant hours;
 Gem full of life, and joy, and song divine,
 Soon in the virgin's graceful ear to shine.‡
 'Twas he that sung, if antient Fame speaks truth,
 "Come! follow, follow to the Fount of Youth!"

* The Parrot, as described by Aristotle. Hist. Animal. viii. 12.

† The Humming-bird. Kakopit (florum regulus) is the name of an Indian bird, referred to this class by Seba.

‡ Il sert après sa mort à parer les jeunes Indiennes, qui portent en pendants d'oreilles deux de ces charmans oiseaux. Buffon.

" I quaff the ambrosial mists that round it rise,

" Dissolv'd and lost in dreams of Paradise!"

For there call'd forth, to bless a happier hour,

It met the sun in many a rainbow-shower!

Murmuring delight, its living waters roll'd

'Mid branching palms and amaranths of gold!*

* Alluding to an antient tradition. Oviedo. Vega. Herrera.





CANTO X.

Evening—a banquet—the ghost of Cazziva.

HER leaves at length the conscious tamarind clos'd,
 And from wild sport the marmoset repos'd;
 Fresh from the lake the breeze of twilight blew,
 And vast and deep the mountain-shadows grew;

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When many a fire-fly, shooting thro' the glade,
 Spangled the locks of many a lovely maid,
 Who now danc'd forth to strew His path with flowers,
 And hymn His welcome to celestial bowers.*

There od'rous lamps adorn'd the festal rite,
 And guavas blush'd as in the vales of light.†
 —There silent sat many an unbidden Guest,‡
 Whose stedfast looks a secret dread impress'd;
 Not there forgot the sacred fruit that fed
 At nightly feasts the Spirits of the Dead,

* P. Martyr. dec. i. 5.

† They believed that the souls of good men were conveyed to a pleasant valley, abounding in guavas and other delicious fruits. Herrera, I. iii. 3. F. Columbus, c. 62.

‡ "The dead walk abroad in the night, and feast with the living" (F. Columbus, c. 62) and "eat of the fruit called Guannàba." P. Martyr, dec. I. 9.

Mingling in scenes that mirth to mortals give,
 Tho' by their sadness known from those that live.

There met, as erst, within the wonted grove,
 Unmarried girls and youths that died for love!
 Sons now beheld their antient sires again;
 And sires, alas, their sons in battle slain!

* * * * *

But whence that sigh? 'Twas from a heart that broke!
 And whence that voice? As from the grave it spoke!
 And who, as unresolv'd the feast to share,
 Sits half-withdrawn in faded splendour there?
 'Tis he of yore, the warrior and the sage,
 Whose lips have mov'd in prayer from age to age;
 Whose eyes, that wander'd as in search before,
 Now on COLUMBUS fix'd—to search no more!

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CAZZIVA,* gifted in his day to know
 The gathering signs of a long night of woe;
 Gifted by Those who give but to enslave;
 No rest in death! no refuge in the grave!
 —With sudden spring as at the shout of war,
 He flies! and, turning in his flight, from far
 Glares thro' the gloom like some portentous star!

Unseen, unheard!—Hence, Minister of Ill!
 Hence, 'tis not yet the hour; tho' come it will!
 They that foretold—too soon shall they fulfil;†
 When forth they rush as with the torrent's sweep,‡
 And deeds are done that make the Angels weep!—"

* An antient Cacique; in his life-time and after his death employed by the Zemi to alarm his people. See F. Columbus, c. 62.

† Nor could they (the Powers of Darkness) have more effectually prevented the progress of the Faith, than by desolating the New World; by burying nations alive in mines, or consigning them in all their errors to the sword. *Relacion de B. de las Casas.*

‡ Not man alone, but many other animals became extinct there.

* * * * *

Hark, o'er the busy mead the shell† proclaims
 Triumphs, and masques, and high heroic games.
 And now the old sit round; and now the young
 Climb the green boughs the murmuring doves among.
 Who claims the prize, when winged feet contend;
 When twanging bows the flaming arrows‡ send?
 Who stands self-centred in the field of fame,
 And, grappling, flings to earth a giant's frame?
 Whilst all, with anxious hearts and eager eyes,
 Bend as he bends, and, as he rises, rise!
 And CORA's self, in pride of beauty here,
 Trembles with grief and joy, and hope and fear!
 (She who, the fairest, ever flew the first,
 With cup of balm to quench his burning thirst;

† P. Martyr. dec. iii. c. 7.

‡ Rochefort. c. xx. p. 559.

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Knelt at his head, her fan-leaf in her hand,
 And humm'd the air that pleas'd him, while she fann'd)
 How blest his lot!—tho', by the Muse unsung,
 His name shall perish, when his knell is rung.

* * * * *

That day, transported, with a sigh I said
 " 'Tis all a dream !"—Now, like a dream, 'tis fled;
 And many and many a year has pass'd away,
 And I alone remain to watch and pray!
 Yet oft at midnight, on my bed of straw,
 Oft I awake and think on what I saw!
 The groves, the birds, the youths, the nymphs recall,
 And CORA, loveliest, sweetest of them all!





CANTO XII.*

A Vision.

TWICE the Moon fill'd her silver urn with light.
Then from the Throne an Angel wing'd his flight;
He, who unfix'd the compass, and assign'd
O'er the wild waves a pathway to the wind;

* The Eleventh Canto is wanting.

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Who, while approach'd by none but Spirits pure,
 Wrought, in his progress thro' the dread obscure,
 Signs like the ethereal bow—that shall endure! *
 Before the great Adventurer, laid to rest,
 He stood, and thus his secret soul address'd. †

“ The wind recalls thee; its still voice obey.

“ Millions await thy coming; hence, away.

“ To thee blest tidings of great joy consign'd,

“ Another Nature, and a new Mankind!

“ The vain to dream, the wise to doubt shall cease;

“ Young men be glad, and old depart in peace! ‡

“ Hence! tho' assembling in the fields of air,

“ Now, in a night of clouds, thy Foes prepare

* It is remarkable that these phenomena still remain among the mysteries of nature.

† Te tua fata docebo. Virg.—Saprai di tua vita il viaggio. Dante.

‡ P. Martyr. Epist. 133. 152.

" To rock the globe with elemental wars,
 " And dash the floods of ocean to the stars;*
 " To bid the meek repine, the valiant weep,
 " And Thee restore thy Secret to the Deep!†
 " Not then to leave Thee! to their vengeance cast,
 " Thy heart their aliment, their dire repast!‡
 " — — — — —
 " To other eyes shall MEXICO unfold
 " Her feather'd tapestries,§ and roofs of gold.
 " To other eyes, from distant cliff descried,||
 " Shall the PACIFIC roll his ample tide.

* When he entered the Tagus, all the seamen ran from all parts to behold, as it were some wonder, a ship that had escaped so terrible a storm. F. Columbus, c. 40.

† I wrote on a parchment that I had discovered what I had promised; —and, having put it into a cask, I threw it into the sea. Ibid. c. 37.

‡ See the Eumenides of Æschylus, v. 305, &c.

§ Clavigero. VII. 52.

|| Balboa immediately concluded it to be the ocean for which Columbus had searched in vain; and when, at length, after a toilsome

- " Chains thy reward! beyond the ATLANTIC wave
 " Hung in thy chamber, buried in thy grave! *
 " Thy reverend form to time and grief a prey,
 " A phantom wandering in the light of day!
 " What tho' thy grey hairs to the dust descend,
 " Their scent shall track thee, track thee to the end;
 " Thy sons reproach'd with their great father's fame,
 " And on his world inscrib'd another's name!
 " That world a prison-house, full of sights of woe,
 " Where groans burst forth, and tears in torrents flow!
 " These gardens of the sun, sacred to song,
 " By dogs of carnage, howling loud and long, †

march among the mountains, his guides pointed out to him the summit from which it might be seen, he commanded his men to halt, and *went up alone*. Herrera. I. x. 1.

* I always saw them in his room, and he ordered them to be buried with his body. F. Columbus. c 86.

† One of these, on account of his extraordinary sagacity and fierceness, received the full allowance of a soldier. His name was Bezerillo.

- " Swept—till the voyager, in the desert air,
 " Starts back to hear his alter'd accents there! *
 " Not thine the olive, but the sword to bring,
 " Not peace, but war! Yet from these shores shall spring
 " Peace without end; † from these, with blood defil'd,
 " Spread the pure spirit of thy Master mild!
 " Here, in His train, shall arts and arms attend,
 " Arts to adorn, and arms but to defend.
 " Assembling here, all nations shall be blest; ‡
 " The sad be comforted; the weary rest:

* No unusual effect of an exuberant vegetation. 'The air was so vitiated,' says an African traveller, 'that our torches burnt dim, and seemed ready to be extinguished; and even the human voice lost its natural tone.'

† See Washington's farewell address to his fellow-citizens.

‡ North America became instantly an asylum for the oppressed; huguenots, and catholics, and sects of every name and country. Such were the first settlers in Carolina and Maryland, Pennsylvania and New England. Nor is South America altogether without a claim to

“ Untouch’d shall drop the fetters from the slave;

“ And He shall rule the world he died to save!

“ Hence, and rejoice. The glorious work is done.

“ A spark is thrown that shall eclipse the sun!

“ And, tho’ bad men shall long thy course pursue,

“ As erst the ravening brood o’er chaos flew,*

“ He, whom I serve, shall vindicate his reign;

“ The spoiler spoil’d of all; the slayer slain;†

“ The tyrant’s self, oppressing and oppress,

“ Mid gems and gold unenvied and unblest:‡

the title. Even now, while I am writing, the antient house of Braganza is on its passage across the Atlantic,

Cum sociis, natoque, Penatibus, et magnis dīs.

* See *Paradise Lost*. X.

† Cortes, Pizarro.—‘Almost all,’ says Las Casas, ‘have perished. The innocent blood, which they had shed, cried aloud for vengeance; the sighs, the tears of so many victims went up before God.’

‡ L’Espagne a fait comme ce roi insensé qui demanda que tout ce qu’il toucheroit se convertit en or, et qui fut obligé de revenir aux dieux pour les prier de finir sa misère. Montesquieu.

" While to the starry sphere thy name shall rise,

" (The bright reward of generous enterprise!)

" Thine in all hearts to dwell—by Fame enshrin'd,

" With those, the Few, that live but for Mankind."



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ON the two last leaves, and written in another hand, are some stanzas in the romance or ballad measure of the Spaniards. The subject is an adventure soon related.

Thy lonely watch-tower, Larenille,
 Had lost the western sun;
 And loud and long from hill to hill
 Echoed the evening-gun,
 When Hernan, rising on his oar,
 Shot like an arrow from the shore.
 —“ Those lights are on St. Mary’s isle;
 “ They glimmer from the sacred pile.”*
 The waves were rough; the hour was late.
 But soon across the Tinto borne,
 Thrice he blew the signal-horn,
 He blew and would not wait.
 Home by his dangerous path he went;
 Leaving, in rich habiliment,
 Two Strangers at the Convent-gate.

They ascended by steps hewn out in the rock;
 and, having asked for admittance, were lodged there.

* The Convent of Rábida. See Page 187. Note.

Brothers in arms the Guests appear'd;
 The Youngest with a Princely grace!
 Short and sable was his beard,
 'Thoughtful and wan his face.
 His velvet cap a medal bore,
 And ermine fring'd his broider'd vest;
 And, ever sparkling on his breast,
 An image of St. John he wore.†

The Eldest had a rougher aspect, and there was
 craft in his eye. He stood a little behind in a long
 black mantle, his hand resting upon the hilt of his
 sword; and his white hat and white shoes glittered
 in the moon-shine.‡

"Not here unwelcome, tho' unknown.
 "Enter and rest!" the Friar said.
 The moon, that thro' the portal shone,
 Shone on his reverend head.
 Thro' many a court and gallery dim
 Slowly he led, the burial-hymn
 Swelling from the distant choir.
 But now the holy men retire;
 The arched cloisters issuing thro',
 In long long order, two and two.

* * * * *

† See Bernal Diaz, c. 203; and also a well-known portrait of
 Cortes, ascribed to Titian. Cortes was now in the 43d, Pizarro
 in the 60th year of his age.

‡ Augustin Zaratè, lib. iv. c. 9.

When other sounds had died away,
 And the waves were heard alone,
 They enter'd, tho' unus'd to pray,
 Where God was worshipp'd, night and day,
 And the dead knelt round in stone;
 They enter'd, and from aisle to aisle
 Wander'd with folded arms awhile,
 Where on his altar-tomb reclin'd
 The crosier'd Abbot; and the Knight
 In harness for the Christian fight,
 His hands in supplication join'd;—
 Then said as in a solemn mood,
 "Now stand we where COLUMBUS stood!"

* * * * *

"PEREZ,† thou good old man," they cried,
 "And art thou in thy place of rest?—
 "Tho' in the western world His grave,‡
 "That other world, the gift He gave,§
 "Would ye were sleeping side by side!
 "Of all his friends He lov'd thee best."

* * * * *

The supper in the chamber done,
 Much of a Southern Sea they spake,
 And of that glorious City || won
 Near the setting of the Sun,
 Thron'd in a silver lake;

† Late Superior of the House. See p. 211. Note.

‡ In the chancel of the cathedral of St. Domingo.

§ The words of the epitaph. "A Castilla y a Leon nuevo
 Mundo dio Colon." || Mexico.

Of seven kings in chains of gold*—
 And deeds of death by tongue untold,
 Deeds, such as breath'd in secret there
 Had shaken the Confession-chair!

The Eldest swore by our Lady,† the Youngest by his conscience;‡ while the Franciscan, sitting by in his grey habit, turned away and crossed himself again and again. "Here is a little book," said he at last, "the work of one in his shroud below. It tells of things you have mentioned; and, were Cortes and Pizarro here, it might perhaps make them reflect for a moment." The Youngest smiled as he took it into his hand. He read it aloud to his companion with an unfaltering voice; but, when he laid it down, a silence ensued; nor was he seen to smile again that night.§ "The curse is heavy," said he at parting, "but Cortes may live to disappoint it."—"Aye, and Pizarro too!"

* Afterwards the arms of Cortes.

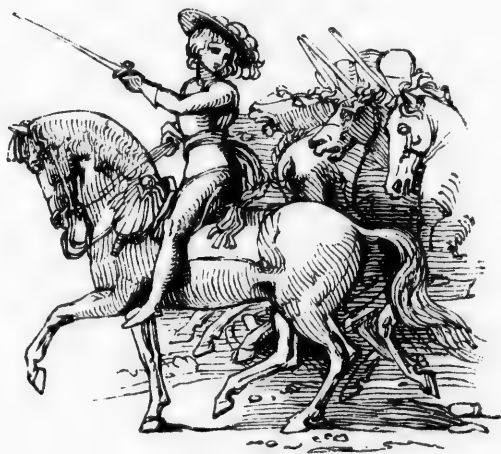
† Fernandez, lib. ii. c. 63.

‡ B. Diaz, c. 203.

§ 'After the death of Guatimotzin,' says B. Diaz, 'he became gloomy and restless; rising continually from his bed, and wandering about in the dark.'—"Nothing prospered with him; and it was ascribed to the curses he was loaded with."

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* * A circumstance, recorded by Herrera, renders this visit not improbable. 'In May, 1528, Cortes arrived unexpectedly at Palos; and, soon after he had landed, he and Pizarro met and rejoiced; and it was remarkable that they should meet, as they were two of the most renowned men in the world.' B. Diaz makes no mention of the interview; but, relating an occurrence that took place at this time in Palos, says, 'that Cortes was now absent at Nuestra Senora de la Rábida.' The Convent is within half a league of the town.





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ADDITIONAL NOTES.

PAGE 195, LINE 1.

Say, who first pass'd the portals of the West,

So remarkably fulfilling an antient prophecy:

. venient annis

Secula seris, quibus Oceanus

Vincula rerum laxet, &c.

Seneca, in *Medea*, v. 374.

which Tasso has imitated in his *Gierusalemme Liberata*.

Tempo verrà, che fian d'Ercole i segni

Favola vile, &c.

c. xv. 30

P. 196, l. 11.

— *the great Commander*

In the original, 'El Almirante.' In Spanish America, says M. de Humboldt, when *El Almirante* is pronounced without the addition of a name, that

of Columbus is understood; as, from the lips of a Mexican, *El Marchese* signifies Cortes.

A couplet is here omitted.

His amber chain the only badge he bore,

His mantle blue such as his fathers wore.

The chain was afterwards given to Guacanahari.

See F. Columbus, c. 32.

P. 197, l. 2.

Whose voice is truth, whose wisdom is from heav'n,

The compass might well be an object of superstition. A belief is said to prevail even at this day, that it will refuse to traverse when there is a dead body on board.

Hist. des Navig. aux Terres Australes.

P. 197, l. 11.

Thine but to lead me where I wish'd to go!"

A romantic circumstance is related of some early navigator in the *Histoire Gen. des Voyages*, I. i. 2. "On trouva dans l'isle de Cuervo une statue équestre, couverte d'un manteau, mais la tête nue, qui tenoit

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de la main gauche la bride du cheval, et qui mon-
troit l'occident de la main droite. Il y avoit sur le
bas d'un roc quelques lettres gravées, qui ne furent
point entendues; mais il parut clairement que le
signe de la main regardoit l'Amérique."

P. 198, l. 12.

Folded their arms and sat;

To return was deemed impossible, as it blew
always from home. F. Columbus, c. 19. Nos
pavidi—at pater Anchises—lætus.

P. 200, l. 1.

What vast foundations in the Abyss are there,

Tasso employs preternatural agents on a similar
occasion.

Trappassa, et ecco in quel silvestre loco
Sorge improvvisa la città del foco.

Gier. Lib. c. xiii. 33.

Gli incanti d'Ismeno, che ingannano con delusioni,
altro non significano, che la falsità delle ragioni, et
delle persuasioni, la qual si genera nella moltitudine,
et varietà de' pareri, et de' discorsi humani.

P. 204, l. 1.

*'Twas in the deep, immeasurable cave
Of ANDES,*

Vast indeed must be those dismal regions, if it be true, as conjectured, (Kircher. Mund. Subt. I. 202), that Etna, in her eruptions, has discharged twenty times her original bulk. Well might she be called by Euripides (Troades, v. 222) the *Mother of Mountains*; yet Etna herself is but 'a mere firework, when compared to the burning summits of the Andes.'

P. 208, l. 1.

Still, as beyond this mortal life impell'd

The fourth Canto began, like the second, with an exclamation.

"Ah, why look back, tho' all is left behind?
"No sounds of life are stirring in the wind.—
"And you, ye birds, winging your passage home,
"How blest ye are!—We know not where we roam.
"We go," they cried, "go to return no more;
"Nor ours, alas, the transport to explore
"A human footstep on a desert shore!"

P. 210, l. 1.

Yet who but He undaunted could explore

Many sighed and wept; and every hour seemed
a year, says Herrera. I. i. 9 and 10.

P. 210, l. 6.

No sign of man!

A circumstance, here omitted, seems to be borrowed from Ariosto. xix. 45.

Two at the stern before the hour-glass stood,
As 'twere to count the sands!

P. 211, l. 5.

While his dear boys—ah, on his neck they hung,

' But I was most afflicted, when I thought of my two sons, whom I had left behind me in a strange country . . . before I had done, or at least could be known to have done, any thing which might incline your highnesses to remember them. And though I comforted myself with the reflection that our Lord would not suffer so earnest an endeavour for the exaltation of his church to come to nothing, yet I considered that, on account of my unworthiness,' &c.—F. Columbus, c. 37.

P. 218, l. 2.

— and, thro' that dismal night,

'Aquella noche triste.' The night, on which
Cortes made his famous retreat from Mexico through
the street of Tlacopan still goes by the name of LA
NOCHE TRISTE. Humboldt.

P. 219, l. 6.

Then, inly gliding, &c.

The original passage is here translated at full
length.

Then, inly gliding like a subtle flame,
Thrice, with a cry that thrill'd the mortal frame,
Call'd on the Spirit within. Disdaining flight,
Calmly she rose, collecting all her might.*
Dire was the dark encounter! Long unquell'd,
Her sacred seat, sovereign and pure, she held.
At length the great Foe binds her for his prize,
And awful, as in death, the body lies!

Not long to slumber! In an evil hour
Inform'd and lifted by the unknown Power,
It starts, it speaks! "We live, we breathe no more!" &c.

* magnum si pectore possit
Excussisse deum.

Many a modern reader will exclaim in the language of Pococurantè, "Quelle triste extravagance!" Let a great theologian of that day, a monk of the Augustine order, be consulted on the subject. 'Corpus ille perimere vel jugulare potest; nec id modò, verùm et animam ita urgere, et in angustum coarctare novit, ut in momento quoque illi excedendum sit.'

P. 225, l. 7.

Chosen of Men!

I believe that he was *chosen* for this great service; and that, because he was to be so truly an apostle, as in effect he proved to be, therefore was his origin obscure; that therein he might resemble those who were called to make known the name of the Lord from seas and rivers, and not from courts and palaces. And I believe also, that as, in most of his doings, he was guarded by some special providence, his very name was not without some mystery: for in it is expressed the wonder he performed; inasmuch as he conveyed to a new world the grace of the Holy Ghost, &c. F. Col. c. 1.

P. 228, l. 11.

But how the scene pourtray?

"This country excels all others, as far as the day surpasses the night in splendour.—Nor is there a better people in the world. They love their neighbour as themselves; their conversation is the sweetest imaginable, their faces always smiling; and so gentle, so affectionate are they, that I swear to your highnesses," &c. F. Col. c. 30, 33.

P. 233, l. 14.

Ceiba,

The wild cotton tree, often mentioned in History. 'Cortes,' says Bernal Diaz, 'took possession of the Country in the following manner. Drawing his sword, he gave three cuts with it into a great Ceiba, and said ——.'

P. 234, l. 3.

Half bird, half fly,

Here are birds so small, says Herrera, that, though they are birds, they are taken for bees or butterflies.

P. 234, l. 4.

Reigns there, and revels, &c.

There also was heard the wild cry of the
Flamingo.

What clarion winds along the yellow sands?
Far in the deep the giant-fisher stands,
Folding his wings of flame.

P. 237, l. 3.

Who now danc'd forth, &c.

Their dances, which continued from evening to the dawn, were accompanied with singing. P. Martyr, dec. iii. 7.—Their songs perished with them: but of their dances we may conceive an idea; if it be true as related, that the Fandango came to Europe with the conquerors of the Western World.
Sobrinho Aumentado por F. Cormon.

P. 245, l. 3.

Thy reverend form

His person, says Herrera, had an air of grandeur. His hair, from many hardships, had long

been grey. In him you saw a man of an unconquerable courage, and high thoughts; patient of wrongs, calm in adversity, ever trusting in God:—and, had he lived in antient times, statues and temples would have been erected to him without number, and his name would have been placed among the stars.

P. 246, l. 1.

Swept—till the voyager, in the desert air,

With my own eyes I saw kingdoms as full of people, as hives are full of bees; and now where are they?
Las Casas.

P. 246, l. 7.

Here, in His train, shall arts and arms attend,

‘There are those alive,’ said an illustrious orator, ‘whose memory might touch the two extremities. Lord Bathurst, in 1704, was of an age *acta parentum jam legere, et quæ sit poterit cognoscere virtus*—and if his angel had then drawn

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up the curtain, and, whilst he was gazing with admiration, had pointed out to him a speck, and had told him, "Young man, there is America—which, at this day, serves for little more than to amuse you with stories of savage men and uncouth manners; yet shall, before you taste of death," &c.

Burke in 1775.

P. 264, l. 9.

Assembling here, &c.

How simple were the manners of the early colonists! The first ripening of any European fruit was distinguished by a family-festival. Garcilasso de la Vega relates how his dear father, the valorous Andres, collected together in his chamber seven or eight gentlemen to share with him three asparagus, the first that ever grew on the table-land of Cusco. When the operation of dressing them was over (and it is minutely described) he distributed the two largest among his friends; begging that the company would not take it ill, if he reserved the third for himself, *as it was a thing from Spain.*

P. 247, l. 1.

Untouch'd shall drop the fetters from the slave;

Je me transporte quelquefois au delà d'un siècle. J'y vois le bonheur à côté de l'industrie, la douce tolérance remplaçant la farouche inquisition; j'y vois un jour de fête; Péruviens, Mexicains, Américains libres, François, s'embrassant comme des frères, et bénissant le règne de la liberté, qui doit amener par-tout une harmonie universelle.—Mais les mines, les esclaves, que deviendront-ils? Les mines se fermeront; les esclaves seront les frères de leurs maîtres.

Nouv. Voy. dans l'Amérique.

P. 247, l. 8.

The spoiler spoil'd of all;

Cortes. A peine put-il obtenir audience de Charles-Quint: un jour il fendit la presse qui entourait le coche de l'empereur, et monta sur l'étrier de la portière. Charles demanda quel était cet homme: "C'est," répondit Cortez, "celui qui vous a donné plus d'états que vos pères ne vous ont laissé de villes."

Voltaire.

P. 250, l. 8.

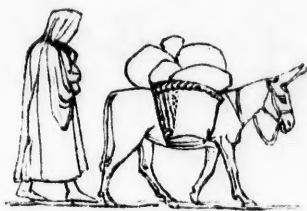
Where on his altar-tomb, &c.

An Interpolation.

P. 250, l. 16.

Tho' in the western world His grave,

An Anachronism. The body of Columbus was not yet removed from Seville.





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